METRO / A17

Mike Arroyo files P32-M libel suits vs Tulfo brothers, editors of INQUIRER, Bandera

SPORTS / A21

7 RP cue masters advance, assured of $25,000 each

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves hit all-time high of $21.4 billion

SPORTS / A21

Juvic Pagunsan shares early lead in $3-M Singapore Open

WORLD / A20

Bush admits secret CIA prisons

Recruitment firm hits back at 28 RP nurses

By Jerome Aning

A PHILIPPINE-BASED RECRUITMENT AGENCY has turned the tables on 28 Filipino nurses who have reportedly complained that they did not receive the pay and other benefits it had promised them for jobs in New York.

In a statement sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER,

RECRUITMENT/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 8, 2006 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 272 P18 website: www.inq7.net

2/3 of New Yorkers fear new attack

NEW YORK—FIVE YEARS AFTER THE SEPT. 11 attacks, two-thirds of New Yorkers are still "very concerned" about another attack on their city, a level of apprehension only slightly reduced from the fall of 2001, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News polls of the nation and New York City.

Nearly a third of New Yorkers said they were thinking about Sept. 11 every day. About the same number said they had not gone back to pre-Sept. 11 routines and that they were still dealing with changes caused by the attacks.

2/3 OF NEW YORKERS A6

FOUR days after 9/11, thick smoke still envelops the lower Manhattan skyline in this photo taken at first light from Jersey City with the Statue of Liberty in the foreground. AP FILE PHOTO

Bloody Thursday morn

Ex-gov, leftist, poll official shot dead

By Jolene Bolambot, Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

ASSASSINS STRUCK IN SEPARATE PLACES EARLY YESTERday morning, killing a former governor, a leftist leader and a Commission on Elections official.

Former Biliran Gov. Danilo Parilla was gunned down shortly before 6 a.m. while disembarking with his family from an interisland vessel in Cebu City. At 7:25 a.m., in neighboring Bohol, Bayan Muna provincial head Victor Olayvar was shot dead on a bridge by two men on a motorcycle in Danao town.

In Apayao, Comelec provincial supervisor Julius Angadol was killed at 7:30 a.m. while he was on his way to his office in Luna town.

Parilla, 52, was lining up with his wife and three children and other passengers to disembark from the MV Cagayan Princess when he was shot in the head at close range with a .45-cal. pistol by a lone assailant, police said. The ship left his hometown of Naval in Biliran on Wednesday night and arrived at Pier 4 in Cebu City at 5 a.m.

Parilla was declared dead at 7:20 a.m. at the Chong Hua Hospital's emergency room.

Police arrested a suspect identified as Eugenio Corpin, 56, a former bodyguard of incumbent Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina, after several bystanders ganged up on him and mauled him.

"I did not shoot him. It was my friend Norbing. He defended me because Parilla mauled me at the Naval pier last Saturday," Corpin said in Cebuano.

Police were looking at a personal grudge as the motive because of the reported public altercation between Parilla and Corpin at the Naval Barbeque Plaza.

Olayvar, 46, president of Bayan Muna-Bohol and chair of the farmers' group Hugpong sa Mag-uumang Bul-anon (Humabol), was attacked on Caban Bridge in Barangay Cantubod, Danao, Bohol, police said.

Senior Supt. Arturo Evangelista, provincial police director, said the victim was riding on a *habal-habal* (motorcy-

BLOODY/ A4

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair: Ta-ta to No. 10 Downing Street, and all that. AFP

Blair vows to quit within one year to quiet critics

LONDON—PRIME MINISTER TONY Blair promised Thursday to resign within a year, hoping to appease critics in his governing Labour Party who were calling for his departure by revealing a time frame he had badly wanted to keep private.

"I would have preferred to do this in my own way," Blair said, but conceded that he'd been forced to act by a week of public turmoil in the party. He refused to set a specific departure date, but said the annual Labour Party conference this month would be his last. Next year's conference is scheduled for September 2007.

"The precise timetable has to be left to me and has to be done in the proper way," he said.

The prime minister, who once commanded Labour with an unassailable authority, now appears to be at the mercy of demands from its restive lawmakers. It was not immediately clear whether his new exit strategy will be detailed and speedy enough to satisfy them.

Labour loyalists urging Blair to leave

BLAIR VOWS/ A15

Power firm bans hunting of giant bats

By Bobby Labalan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—EFFORTS ARE under way to save the dwindling number of giant bats that have turned the sprawling Bac-Man geothermal field here into a major tourist attraction.

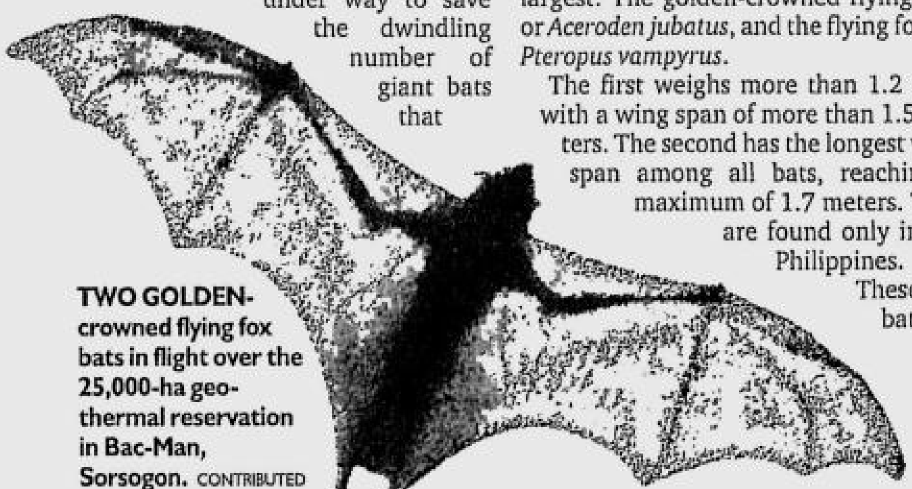
They include two of the world's largest: The golden-crowned flying fox, or *Aceroden jubatus*, and the flying fox, or *Pteropus vampyrus*.

The first weighs more than 1.2 kilos with a wing span of more than 1.5 meters. The second has the longest wing span among all bats, reaching a maximum of 1.7 meters. They are found only in the Philippines.

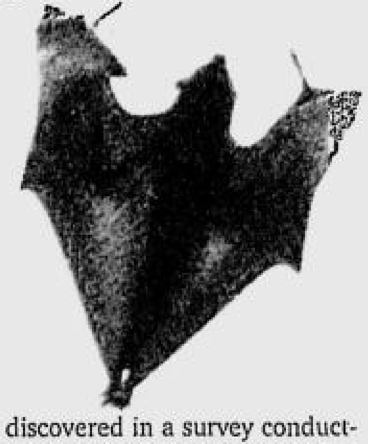
These bats were discovered in a survey conducted in June by biologist Philip Alviola, a member of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation International, for the Philippine National Oil Co. in the PNOC's 25,000-hectare geothermal reservation.

The reservation hosts the geother-

POWER/ A15



TWO GOLDEN-crowned flying fox bats in flight over the 25,000-ha geothermal reservation in Bac-Man, Sorsogon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEO MAGO/PNOC



Skipper clueless on what caused hole in tanker

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE CAPTAIN AND A CREW MEMBER OF the MT Solar 1 yesterday told the Special Board of Marine Inquiry (SBMI) they did not know what caused the hole on the port side of the tanker that sank off Guimaras Island and caused the worst oil spill in the country's history.

The triangular hole was seen on a video taken by a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) sent down by experts aboard the Japanese research vessel MT Shinsei Maru last week to look at the tanker that went down Aug. 11 in choppy waters carrying more than 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

Testimony before the board indicated that the puncture in the Solar I's bow may have been caused by a container van that fell off a cargo ship.

"I didn't feel anything," said Capt. Norberto Aguro. "I would probably have felt it during good weather, but if there was bad weather, it might feel like you

SKIPPER/ A8

2 senators urge GMA to deal with security lapses at airport

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Nikko Dizon

SENATORS MAR ROXAS AND RODOLFO Biazon yesterday called on the government to address lapses in airport security that allowed a counterterrorism expert on a test mission to bring bomb components onto two commercial flights.

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that criminal proceedings would be instituted against the man for conducting the experiment purportedly without official sanction and thereby tarnishing the integrity of Philippine security before the international community.

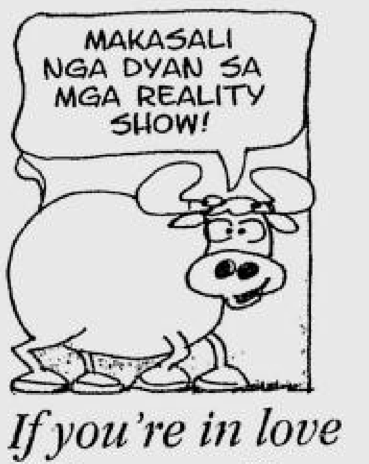
"Without prejudice to the Palace decision to file charges against this terror expert, it still doesn't solve the lapses that enabled this man to slip through with bomb-making materials," Roxas said in a statement.

Roxas said the pride and egos of security officials should take second place to a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing security procedures in the country's ports of entry.

"What would work more in our favor, insofar as the country's international image is concerned, are concrete and urgent steps to show that we took this information seriously and are now taking specific steps to upgrade our defense and security systems," Roxas said.

Biazon said he supported the filing of charges against Samson Macariola, who

2 SENATORS/ A8


MAKASALI NGA DYAN SA MGA REALITY SHOW!

If you're in love with yourself, you can be a celebrity

LOS ANGELES—IN CASE ANYONE needed proof, a new study supports the widely held perception: Celebrities are more in love with themselves than the average person.

That was the conclusion drawn by Drew Pinsky and S. Mark Young of the University of Southern California, whose study of 200 celebrities will appear in the Journal of Research in Personality.

It is not the entertainment indus-

IF YOU'RE/ A4

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/07/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

P47B in new funds a done deal

SAVE FOR SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS, THE P46.9 billion supplemental budget is a done deal.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said this after the Senate finance committee approved the supplementary funds for this year that the President is seeking from Congress.

Salceda, who chairs the House appropriations committee, said the breakthrough in the Senate was a result of confidence-building measures pursued by leaders of both chambers.

Failure to pass

The supplemental budget is supposed to cover the gaps in funding after Congress failed to pass the P1-trillion 2006 budget because of Senate cuts, forcing the government to operate on a rolled-over 2005 budget.

Differences between the House, which passed the supplemental budget swiftly and unanimously, and senators who remain critical of the President, again threatened to block the passage of the supplemental budget.

House leaders were displeased by a statement of Sen. Franklin Drilon, the chair of the Senate appropriations committee, that the Senate intended to cut P2 billion out of the supplemental budget.

But Salceda said he and and Drilon, his Senate counterpart, have been meeting over breakfast regularly as part of informal talks to mend fences.

Salceda said senators and congressmen would still need to meet in a bicameral conference to come up with a clean copy of the supplemental budget.

But since there are no major sectoral adjustments, the Senate plenary would be likely to approve it soon so the President could sign it into law, he said.

He explained that the realignment done by the Senate only pertained to reallocation within departments and thus did not did not touch the other departments' proposed allocations.

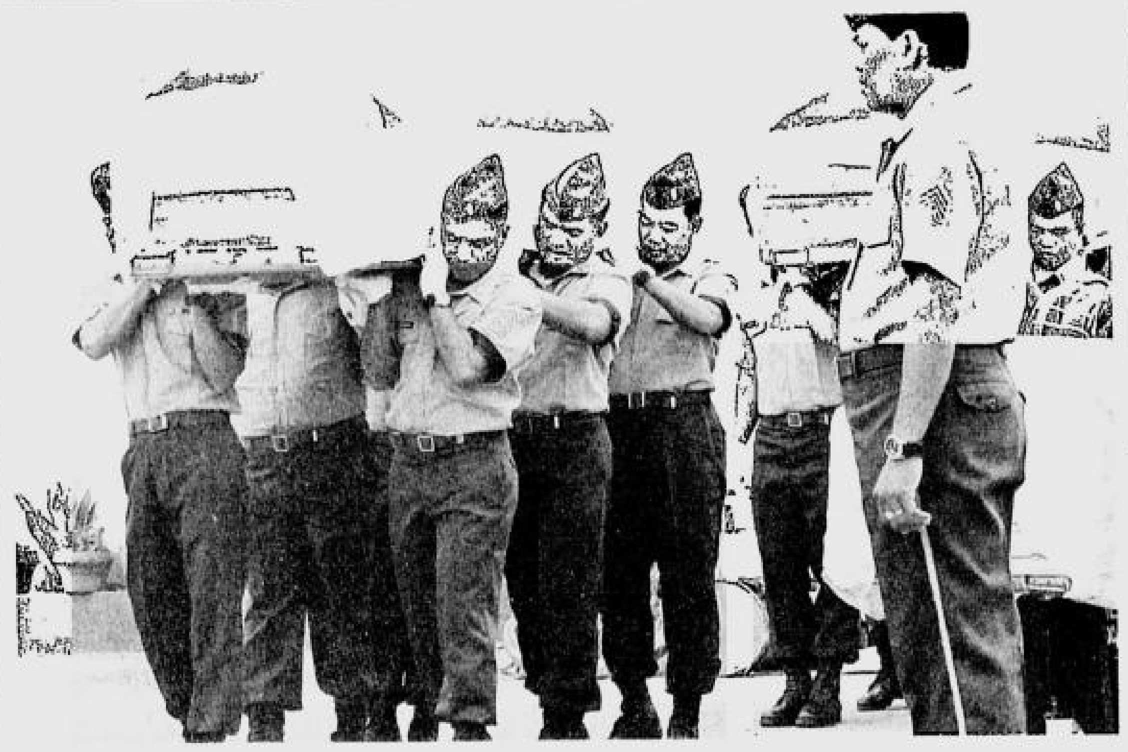
Drilon earlier said the Senate would realign certain allocations: a P500-million standby fund for the repatriation of Filipinos in Lebanon; a P2-billion subsidy to the Metro Rail Transit; a P1.47-billion provision for the hiring of new teachers; a P1.56-billion poll body modernization fund which the Senate wanted to reduce by P829.7 million; and the P14 million special fund for a nursing board re-examination.

Supplemental budget

Salceda said the passage of the supplemental budget was imperative to provide authority for expenditures that were not in the reenacted 2005 budget but were mandatory because of existing of law or necessary for public welfare.

He said the P46.9 billion was only a third of the P135 billion that was lost because of the failure to pass the 2006 budget.

The supplemental measure contains a P2-billion oil spill abatement fund to help clean up the oil slick in Guimaras and other affected areas and P14 million as financial assistance to 42,000 nursing examinees who might be required to again take the nursing board exams. *Michael Lim Ubac*



KILLED IN ACTION

Comrades-in-arms carry the flagged-draped coffins of the six Marines killed in clashes with Abu Sayyaf militants in Patikul Sulu on Monday during yesterday's sendoff ceremonies at the Edwin Andrews Airbase in Zamboanga City. The coffins were flown to Manila while the clashes continued. AFP

Sex education a hit in Pasig HS

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR JONJON comes from a conservative home where sex is not openly discussed, just as in other families.

There are also no formal sex education classes at Rizal High School in Pasig City where he is a student, but who says the only learning comes within the confines of a classroom?

Jonjon said some of his classmates had impregnated their girlfriends. Some have shown him cell phone videos of their sexual activities.

"They are eager to try out things they have never experienced," Jonjon told the INQUIRER.

Thanks to a half-day sex education class held at the school yesterday, 16-year-old Jonjon now knows what to say to his classmates.

"They can get illnesses. There could be unwanted pregnancies. They risk stopping [their] schooling," he said.

The class began with many of the participants—all senior students—bursting into laughter after the facilitators mentioned the words testicles, vagina, breasts and ejaculation during a true-or-false game.

The answers, however, came with scientific explanations, like how to spot signs of infection in vaginal discharge.

The class used some of the materials in the sex education module the Department of Education pilot-tested in Parañaque City and Pateros schools last year.

The module was pulled out, however, after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and other Church-allied groups protested a sentence that urged the use of condoms for safe sex.

This in effect promoted premarital sex among the young, the CBCP had said.

"We will revise some statements and we will remove others on the basis of the reactions [of the CBCP] and of the students," Bureau of Secondary Education director II Estrellita Evangelista said yesterday.

Evangelista said the new module would be ready "more likely at the opening of the next school year," depending on the DepEd budget.

Napolcom fete tragic for official

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHE EVEN DANCED BRIEFLY AS her colleagues and staff performed in a festive cultural presentation to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) on Jupiter Street in Makati City at around 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

Minutes later, Napolcom Vice Chair and Executive Officer Imelda Roces collapsed. At 7 p.m., she was pronounced dead as a result of an aneurysm, said Napolcom physician Imerey Ramos. Roces was 70.

"It was so sudden. She had no complaints... She even danced for a while and when she sat down, she suddenly leaned to her side," said Vittorio Roces, the youngest of Roces' five sons.

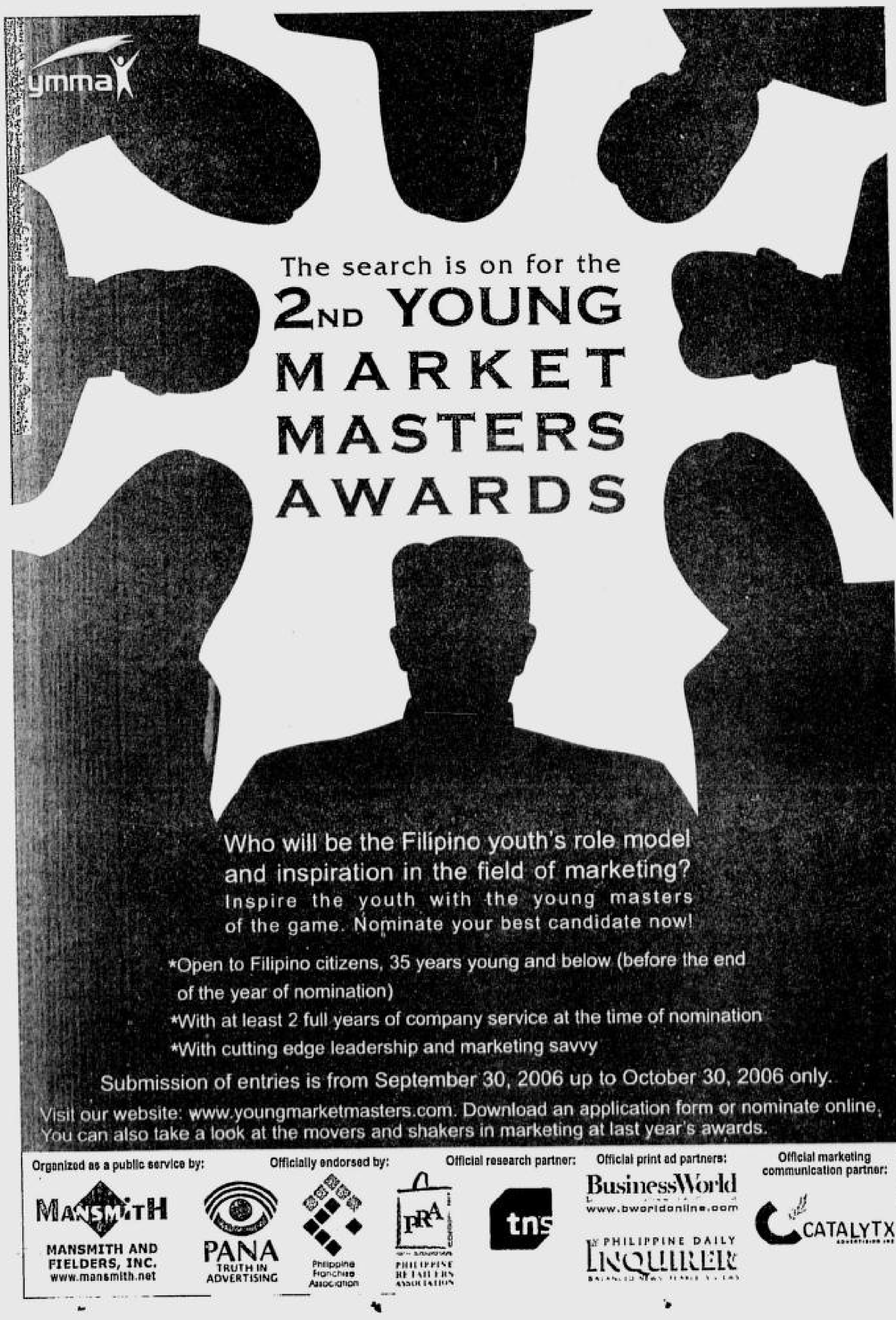
"She was very happy. Suddenly she was seen with a blank stare, then we rushed her to the hospital," said Ramos, who described Roces as having been "very conscious of her health."

Roces was rushed to the Makati Medical Center at around 5 p.m.

Ramos said she was still conscious as her vital signs and blood pressure fluctuated. She was revived but lost consciousness several times until she finally gave up, Ramos said.

"I was holding her hand and I asked her if she wanted anything... The last thing she told me was 'Tell them to continue the program,'" Ramos said.

Napolcom officers and employees also rushed to the hospital to lend support to the Roces' family. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.



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New resolution sets off new Cha-cha train

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHOSE CHA-CHA TRAIN WILL MAKE IT first?

Even as the House committee on constitutional amendments has already approved House Resolution 1230 containing proposed amendments to the Constitution, Rep. Prospero Pichay said he was planning to introduce his own resolution with his proposed changes to the Charter.

And the Surigao del Sur congressman claims that his House Resolution 1285 has more signatures than the one that the committee approved.

Pichay said he would introduce his resolution when the entire House debates on HR 1230, which bore 173 signatures when it was introduced.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Majority Leader Prospero Nograles are among the principal authors of HR 1230.

As of yesterday, Pichay said his resolution had "more or less the required three-fourths vote or 193 votes" required for the House to approve constitutional revisions without Senate participation.

Pichay said he had also talked to some senators who were "very receptive" to his proposals.

Under Pichay's resolution, all current members of Congress will constitute the interim parliament with parliamentary elections to be held on the second Monday of November 2007.

In the Jaraula proposal, it is the interim parliament that will set the date for "the first election under the new system."

Pichay said his proposed amendments had a "good chance" of succeeding compared to those of HR 1230 because the latter included a concurrent resolution calling for the holding of a constituent assembly which has already been sent to the Senate.

Jaraula explained that HR 26, which was approved by the plenary November 2005 and which proposed to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to approve amendments to the Constitution, was the first of a two-step process to introduce amendment proposals. This was what was sent to the Senate.

The second step is HR 1230 which contains the actual proposed amendments to lift economic restrictions and abolish the presidential-bicameral system, replacing it with a parliamentary-unicameral system. This has yet to be approved by the plenary and has yet to be sent to the Senate.

Pichay argued that "Congress, once in session, had the power to revise the constitution" so there was no need for a concurrent resolution or, having passed one, to send it to the Senate for approval.

"If there is already a three-fourths vote in the House of Representatives, then it is not necessarily a requirement to get votes from the Senate," Pichay said.

Senate awaits 'runaway' reso

By TJ Burgonio

IN AN EFFORT TO STOP THE STAMPEDING Cha-cha train at the House of Representatives, senators yesterday warned of everything from the destruction of the country's democratic institutions to inviting military intervention.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the House's hard-line stance on amending the Constitution on its own was "an attempt to weaken the institutions of the country."

"Our military is weakened, our Congress is weakened, our examination system is weakened, the presidency is weakened, the election system is weakened. That's a dangerous situation. There's an absence of steerage in the country," he said.

"The ship of state is floating, and it's moving in accordance with people who feel that by their greater strength in numbers, they can govern this country," he said.

Gordon, the chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said the House has to submit House Resolution 1230 proposing amendments to the Constitution to the Senate for approval.

He said the House leaders may be forgetting their own rules.

He reminded House members of Section 105 of the House rules on constitutional amendments, which says that the adoption of resolutions proposing amendments or revisions should follow the procedure for the enactment of laws, and Section. 58, which says that the secretary general should transmit to the Senate for its concurrence all bills, and joint concurrent resolutions approved by the House.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said this meant that the amendments have to be approved first by the House and then elevated to the Senate.

Senate threatens PRC head with contempt

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER BEING SOFT ON THEM FOR some time, the Senate has ordered Professional Regulation Commission chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero, two PRC commissioners and a National Bureau of Investigation official to "show cause" why they should not be held in contempt for snubbing its inquiry into the leakage-tainted June nursing board exams.

"I have written a letter to the PRC and one NBI official to explain why they should not be held in contempt for failing to respond to the subpoena last week. I gave them five days, and this is going to be up to tomorrow," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, chair of the investigating committee on civil service, warned that if the officials failed to respond to the "show cause" orders, he would issue another subpoena on Monday.

"I'd like to do this step by step, according to the rules. And if they don't appear on Thursday, then the next issuance would be a warrant of arrest," he said at a forum in the Senate.

Apart from Tripon, those ordered to explain their snubs were PRC Commissioners Renato Valdecantos and Avelina dela Rea, and Elren Meneses of the NBI anti-fraud and computer crimes division.

The four officials had skipped the committee's three hearings on the reported leakage in the June 11-12 nursing board exams, all invoking Memorandum Circular No. 108, a new set of Palace guidelines on the appearance of officials from the executive branch at congressional inquiries.

Surprisingly, Rosero appeared at the Senate's hearing on the supplemental budget Wednesday morning and reiterated the PRC's decision against a retake of the exams.

"We came here for the budget hearings; and in the other hearings, we are just following the MC 108 guidelines," she told reporters.

Biazon also ordered George Cordero, resigned president of the Philippine Nurses Association, and owners of the Philippine College of Health and Sciences and the INRESS review center, to bring documents crucial to the inquiry. These include the list of nursing graduates who enrolled at the INRESS review center for the June nursing exams.

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It's Mama Mary's birthday; text her

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Here's an ideal gift: Text ON ROSARY and send to 2600 and you automatically donate to the "Way of Mary" Marian shrine project. This is a series of 20 shrines representing the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary which will line the pilgrimage route to Antipolo.

The Way of Mary was a dream project of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin to revive Marian consciousness through the recital of the Holy Rosary. The Institute for Solidarity in Asia took on the project together with recognized Marian devotees.

The Twenty Marian shrines will be installed along the pilgrimage route to Antipolo, representing each mystery of the Holy Rosary, executed in bas-relief on steel and concrete measuring 4-ft. wide, 6-ft. high and 6-ft. thick. The shrines have been designed by sculptor Nemi Miranda.

Perez, pa of ex-DOE chief, dies

VIC PEREZ, FATHER of former Energy Secretary Vince Perez died yesterday at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife Lucy and children Vince, Sheila, Benedict, Arvi and Mikko.

The wake is at the Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City, until Sunday. A thanksgiving Mass will be held at 6 p.m.

Inspired by his older brothers who fought in the resistance, Perez became a boy-soldier at the age of 15 during the war. After the war, he finished a degree in engineering at the University of the Philippines. He was chosen as one of 50 Filipino scholars to the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, where he graduated near the top of his class.

Back from his American stint, Perez joined the original officer corps of the fledging Philippine Navy. During his ten year naval career, he received numerous commendations, including the Military Merit Medal, for anti-illegal fishing and search and rescue missions in Palawan and the southern Philippines. He rose to the rank of lieutenant commander.

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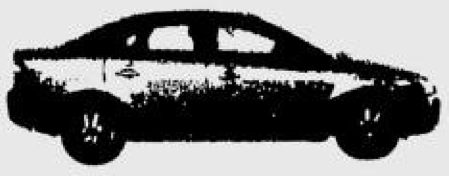

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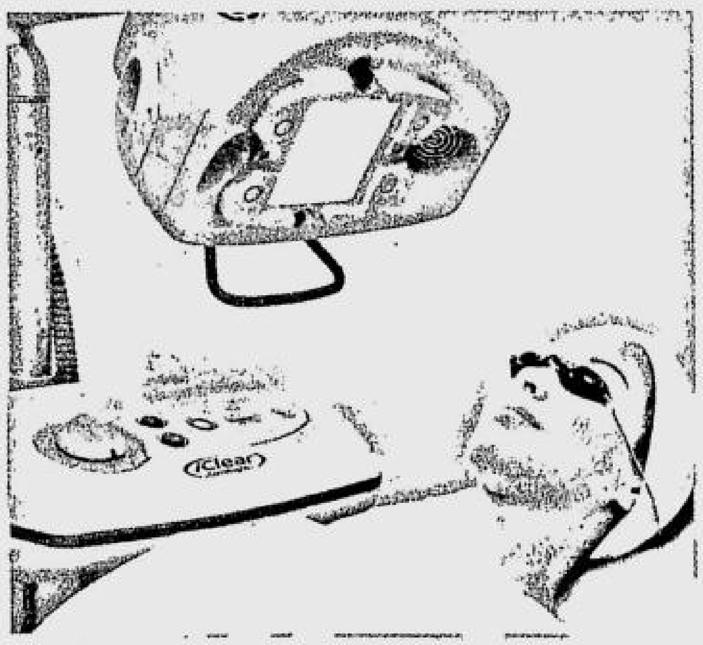
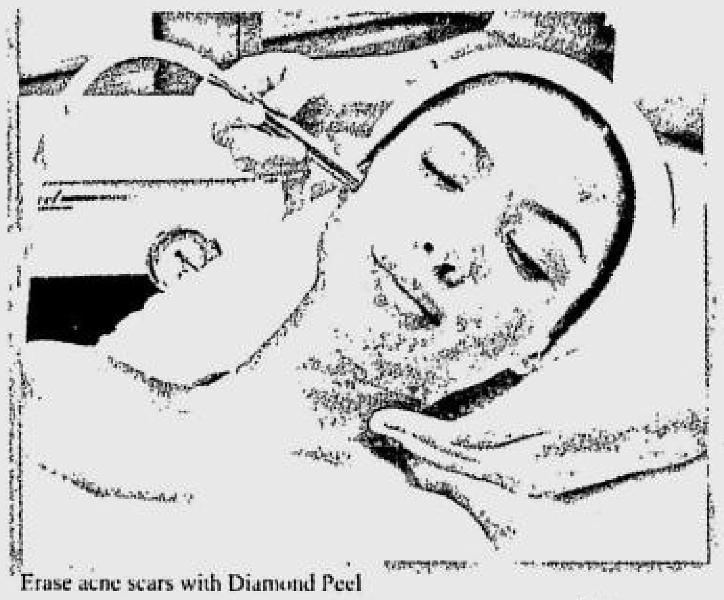


Treat pimples with LightCure Acne Therapy



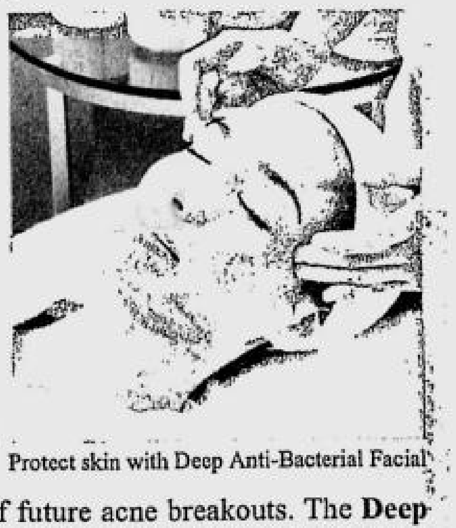
Erase acne scars with Diamond Peel

Your graduation picture. Your wedding. Your 40th birthday party. All these would have been perfect if not for such an untimely annoyance: acne.

Often it occurs on the day when you least want it on your face, like if you are meeting someone you want to impress or will be part of an event involving a lot of pictures getting taken. Acne can start as early as your adolescent years, and can follow you right through adulthood. Whether you're 16, 29 or 40, acne still has the same effect on you: lowered self-esteem, a bad mood and most likely, a self-conscious behavior.

Facial Care Centre offers a 3-step surefire way to permanently combat any type of acne. The first step involves treating the existing acne. In order to eliminate existing pimples and acne cysts, **LightCure Acne Therapy** is a highly effective treatment. It is recommended for mild, moderate and heavy acne. It uses the emission of exact wavelengths of light at the most effective intensity for complete destruction of acne bacteria. LightCure works by targeting sebaceous glands where there are abnormal bacteria responsible for the inflammation of acne lesions. The high-intensity light emitted by LightCure starts a chemical reaction that destroys the acne bacteria without any damage to the normal skin. LightCure is painless, and works faster than conventional treatments like oral antibiotics, hormonal pills, retinoids and injections.

Once the acne has been eliminated, the second step of erasing acne scars follows. Through the **Diamond Peel**, acne scars and other blemishes can be successfully removed. With the use of a diamond dust-coated wand, the skin is exfoliated by the combined action of diamond chips and the cleaning action of a vacuum. As a result, the dead cells in the topmost layer of the skin are removed, leaving a clearer new layer that is smoother and even. Unlike other skin peeling methods, the Diamond Peel requires no downtime and no anesthesia is necessary in performing the procedure. It is non-surgical, non-invasive, extremely safe and effective.



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The final step is the maintenance of the new skin and the prevention of future acne breakouts. The **Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial** is a highly intensive facial that uses the finest natural ingredients to avoid the onset of new acne. It also involves a mild exfoliating method to rid the skin of impurities that are not easily removed by superficial washing and cleansing. Regular treatments ensure smooth, clear, acne-free skin.

With technologically advanced treatments, Facial Care Centre ensures effective acne remedies no matter how severe the case is. The treatments not only eliminate pimples and other blemishes, but will give a healthier skin complexion as well. End your battle with acne today, no matter what age you are. **Call Facial Care for a free consultation at 892-SKIN (7546).**

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PROTESTERS burn posters of controversial Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan during their picket Thursday in front of the Court of Appeals in Manila. Activists blame Palparan for the disappearance of two UP students in Bulacan in June. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Bloody Thursday morning

From page A1

cle-for-hire) driven by Joselito Ayag when two unidentified armed men on another motorcycle blocked their path and shot him several times. Ayag was not hurt.

Olayvar was declared dead at the Francisco Dagohoy Hospital in Danao's neighboring town of Inabanga, police said. He was the 317th activist among 748 civilians killed since 2001 by suspected security forces, who say left-wing groups are fronts for communist rebels, according to the human rights group Karapatan.

Military involvement?

Evangelista said investigators were looking at several angles, but he downplayed speculation that members of the Army's 302nd Infantry Brigade based in Carmen, Bohol, were behind the killing.

"During our local peace forum chaired by Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, Olayvar was promised by the police and military officials that we would do our best to protect him and other leaders of cause-oriented groups. In fact, the head of the 302nd Brigade had invited them to reside in the camp to ensure their safety," Evangelista said.

Apayao election supervisor Angadol, 35, was driving his car when he was shot in a village in Flora town, a few meters from the province's boundary with Cagayan, reports reaching the Comelec office in Baguio City said.

Armando Velasco, Comelec-Cordillera director, said the victim was shot twice in the chest, but later reports reaching him said the lawyer managed to speed away after the attack.

The car smashed against the roadside. Angadol was found slumped on the steering wheel, Velasco said.

Witnesses' accounts

Three witnesses told Cebu City police that Corpin was the one who shot Parilla.

Marilyn Tagal, a resident of Naval, said she saw the suspect aim a gun at the victim's head as he stepped on the gangplank of the ship.

The night before, Tagal said, she also saw Corpin with two other passengers drinking liquor near her deck.

Two other witnesses—Crispin Uy, ship manager, and Robert Ang, agency manager—executed separate statements narrating the conflict between Corpin and Parilla.

Naval Mayor Gerry Espina, the former representative of Biliran's lone district and father of the incumbent governor, said the suspect was a distant relative and served as a bodyguard of his son in 2004.

But Corpin was fired because of his "bad activities." Last year, he was implicated in a robbery incident involving a Vietnamese in Naval.

Parilla, a lawyer by profession, was appointed acting vice governor of Biliran during the term of President Corazon Aquino until his election in 1992 to the same post, which he held until 1995. He ran for governor and won in 1998 under Espina's party, the Nationalist People's Coalition. At that time, Espina won a Congress seat.

In 2001, Parilla broke his ties with Espina and lost the gubernatorial race to Espina's son, Rogelio.

In 2004, Parilla ran for mayor but lost to his former ally, now Mayor Gerry Espina.

The remains of Parilla have been brought to Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Nivel Hills in Lahug, Cebu City.

Peace forum

The body of Bayan Muna leader Olayvar was brought to the Danao municipal hall for his family to claim after it was subjected to an autopsy at a funeral parlor in Inabanga town, police said.

Provincial police chief Evangelista said Bohol Gov. Enrico Aumentado had given him 72 hours to submit a report on the slaying.

"He was really aghast and he condemned the killing. We just had our peace forum last weekend and we all pledged to protect the leaders of cause-oriented groups and vowed not to tolerate any of these senseless killings," Evangelista said.

Police were also looking into reports of purges within the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"Everybody is a suspect. The police, the military, the NPA. We are still investigating," Evangelista said.

Col. Arthur Tabaquero, head of the 302nd IB, said he was surprised by Olayvar's killing and denied his men were involved.

He maintained that there was no animosity between the military and Olayvar's group.

He said that during the peace forum on Saturday, Olayvar had in fact raised concerns for their safety and even asked for the military's help. "I even offered that they could live with me in the camp," Tabaquero said.

The military official said Olayvar had confided to him that he had been followed by several suspicious men in the past weeks and manifested the fear that he might be killed.

Comelec official Angadol was on his way to his law firm in Luna after driving his wife to the Florencio Vargas College in Tuguegarao City, where she teaches, when he was attacked.

No other details were given and the Cordillera police had not received a report on the incident. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Municipality of Bayog

THE BAYOG BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID
JBIC Loan PH-P200

SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
SCHOOL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT
Construction of Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet
Bayog NHS, Kahayagan, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Education has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) last December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for *Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet*. Disbursement of the ODA Loan from JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of Loan Agreement PH-P200. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds.
2. The Local Government Unit of *Bayog* now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to enter into contract based on award for the *Construction of Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet*, which is envisioned to be completed within *One Hundred Twenty (120)* calendar days.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the JBIC's Local Competitive Bidding procedures and is open to all Bidder's from eligible source countries as defined in the *"Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans"*.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of *PhP2,000.00* from the SEDIP-NPMO, DepED Division of Zamboanga del Sur, and the BAC Office of *Bayog*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative, which will be issued on Sept. 19, 2006.
5. The BAC-*Bayog* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on Sept. 27, 2006 at the *Municipal Hall of Bayog*.
6. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the *Municipal Hall of Bayog* on or before Oct. 9, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following forms; cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or a bank guarantee in an amount specified in the Instruction to Bidders. Late Bids will not be accepted. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) will only be disclosed by BAC after the opening of bids in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or its authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids.
7. JBIC requires that all bidders and contractors, as well as the LGU and DepED-SEDIP, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   a.) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b.) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time if it, at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing another contract financed in part from JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
8. The BAC of *Bayog* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) PABLITO A. MATIAS
BAC Chairman

(PDI Sept 8 & 15, 2006)

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO stresses a point during a live telecast on the cyber corridor in the super regions held in Malacañang Friday. EDWIN BACASMAS

'One of the worst cases' submitted to Melo Commission

By TJ Burgonio

BAYAN MUNA LEADER PRISCILLA "Celia" Esteban was resting at her home in Barangay Lennec in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, on the night of Oct. 2, 2005, when two strangers—a man and a woman—barged in and dragged her out into a waiting van.

Three days later, Esteban's body was found under a bridge—blindfolded, hands tied at the back and feet bound. It bore bullet and stab wounds, and her head had been bashed in, according to a human rights group.

A month earlier, soldiers of the Army's 71st Infantry Brigade based in Lennec as part of the reengineered special operations teams (RSOT) went to see the local leader of the party-list group four times to warn her that she was in their "order of battle."

Esteban, 56, was among the 174 victims of disappearances that were documented by the Karapatan-Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights from 2001 to July 11 this year. Of this number, 59 had been abducted and had gone missing this year alone.

Letter to senators

Karapatan said in a letter to senators that Esteban's was "one of the worst cases where victims turned up dead."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday he was transmitting the compilation of killings, involuntary disappearances, harassment and other rights violations prepared by Karapatan and other nongovernment groups to the independent commission headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo for investigation.

Karapatan had earlier furnished Biazon, as well as Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and Senators Franklin Drilon, Manuel Roxas II and Jamby Madrigal, copies of the fact sheets on the disappearances.

"As a former soldier and even now as a legislator, this representation has always believed and maintained that violations of human rights are a very serious matter, especially when the alleged perpetrators are the very people who are tasked to protect and uphold them," Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said in his Sept. 7 letter to Melo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last month designated Melo as head of the commission tasked with inquiring into the killings of leftist activists and journalists.

Based on an INQUIRER tally, 249 militants and activists, mostly Bayan Muna members, have been killed since 2001.

No feedback

Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, said that he had earlier forwarded the compilations to the Commission on Human Rights and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for investigation to establish the veracity of the human rights violations. So far, he has not received any feedback on any action taken.

"So I'll try my luck with transmitting these complaints to Justice Melo and, hopefully, due course will be given the transmittal of these compiled complaints from the NGO," he said at a press forum at the Senate.

Even as he spoke, a member of a leftist fisherfolk alliance, who was allegedly abducted by soldiers on Aug. 31, was reportedly found dead on Thursday in Bulacan.

Leftist's body found

The body of Napoleon Bautista was recovered in Barangay Pungo, Calumpit, a neighboring town of Hagonoy where he was seized together with his wife Ofelia. His body bore marks of torture, according to a report from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Bulacan.

Ofelia, who had been freed after she was severely beaten by their captors, suspected the military to be behind the killing, Bayan said.

The couple, who worked as fishpond caretakers in Barangay San Roque in Hagonoy, were members of the Samahang Bantay Palaisdaan, a local chapter of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, and the party-list group Anakpawis. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

In love with yourself? You can be a celebrity

From page A1

try that turns stars into narcissists, the study found. Rather, it suggests, the self-adoring seek jobs in show business.

The study, whose subjects were all guests on Pinsky's sex-advice radio show—not a place for shrinking violets—found that reality TV stars were the most narcissistic of all celebrities.

Female stars were also more likely than their male counterparts to exhibit narcissistic traits.

It's "common sense" that celebrities are narcissists, according to Jeremy Ritzlin, a longtime Hollywood psychologist who has not seen the study.

"Narcissism is really being in love with yourself," he said. "So it would be natural for narcissists to gravitate toward the spotlight, where other people will also think highly of them."

Pinsky, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at USC's Keck School of Medicine, said narcissists craved attention, showed overconfidence, behaved erratically and lacked empathy.

"However, they are well-liked, especially on first meeting, are extroverted and perform well in public," added Pinsky, who has hosted the syndicated radio show "Loveline" for 20 years.

Celebrity guests appearing on the program were randomly chosen to participate in the study.

They anonymously took the Narcissistic Personality Inventory test, which rates self-love levels based on seven components—superiority, exhibitionism, entitlement, vanity, authority, exploitativeness and entitlement. *AP*

POLLUTER OR MODEL MINE?

Lafayette close to getting back in business

By Blanche S. Rivera

RAPU-RAPU, ALBAY—ALMOST A year after two cyanide spills halted the operations of the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project here, the Australian-based Lafayette Mining appears to be on the way to recovering its flagship status and financial viability.

Government experts who came here yesterday to look into the last stage of the 30-day test run sanctioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Lafayette could again be a "model mine" in the future.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau said the results of the test run would be crucial in determining whether the suspension order on Lafayette could be lifted permanently.

"Lafayette was supposed to be a model mine, and then something happened, and it became an embarrassment. The damage done was not really on the environment but on the image of the industry. The mining industry will recover if Lafayette recovers," said MGB director Horacio Ramos.

Ramos speculated that after it makes the necessary remedies and "paid the price for making a mistake," Lafayette could even become a model mine in the future.

"There's always a risk in mining, so much depends on the people managing it," he said.

The last stage of the 30-day test run expires tomorrow, but Lafayette has asked the Pollution Adjudication Board, a quasi-judicial body under the DENR, for a 60-day extension to allow for plant optimization.

Bayani Agabin, Lafayette's senior vice president for legal affairs, said the firm would more easily convince the PAB of the credibility of Lafayette's structures and the effectivity of its remedial measures if the plant is allowed to run for 60 more days at full capacity.

He expressed confidence that after suffering seven months of suspension and spending P400 million for remedial measures, Lafayette would again be allowed to resume full operations by yearend.

"If you look at the structures, if you look at the scrutiny which we've been subjected to, I don't know how it cannot make a better operator out of us," Agabin said.

"It will send a good signal to investors that we're open for business again and that if there are accidents, the DENR will act on them," he said.

He said an investment house in Singapore has expressed interest in investing $10 to $20 million into Lafayette's operations in the Philippines as soon as the company resumes full commercial operations. Two North American and Australian investors were also keen about putting money into the firm, he said.

Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project was touted as the flagship project of the Philippines' revitalized mining industry, but the illegal release of cyanide-contaminated water from its tailings dam on Oct. 11 and 31 set the mining firm back to the level of a violator. It was fined P10.7 million for violating the Clean Water Act.

The DENR suspended Lafayette's operations in November 2005 but temporarily lifted the suspension in June, subject to certain conditions being met in a three-stage 30-day test run beginning in July.

Ramos said the resumption of Lafayette's operations signified that "the Philippines was monitoring sustainable operations and really promoting responsible mining."

Michael Cabalda, the MGB's mining and environmental safety chief, said there was "technically zero" chance for another cyanide spill occurring because the shift to base metals production reduced the use of cyanide by 80 percent.

He said a cyanide accident would be probable in the handling and transportation of toxic materials rather than during actual operations.

He said Lafayette's petition for a 60-day extension was meritorious because it would allow the DENR to see the credibility of the structures and the remedial measures.

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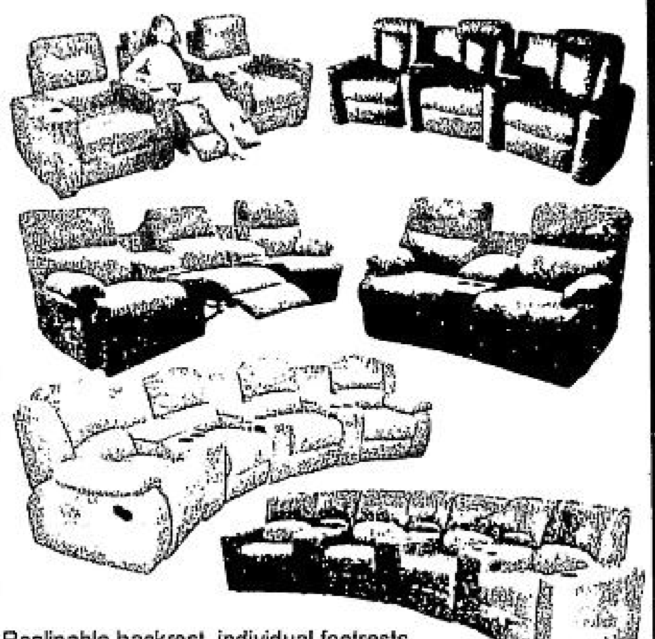
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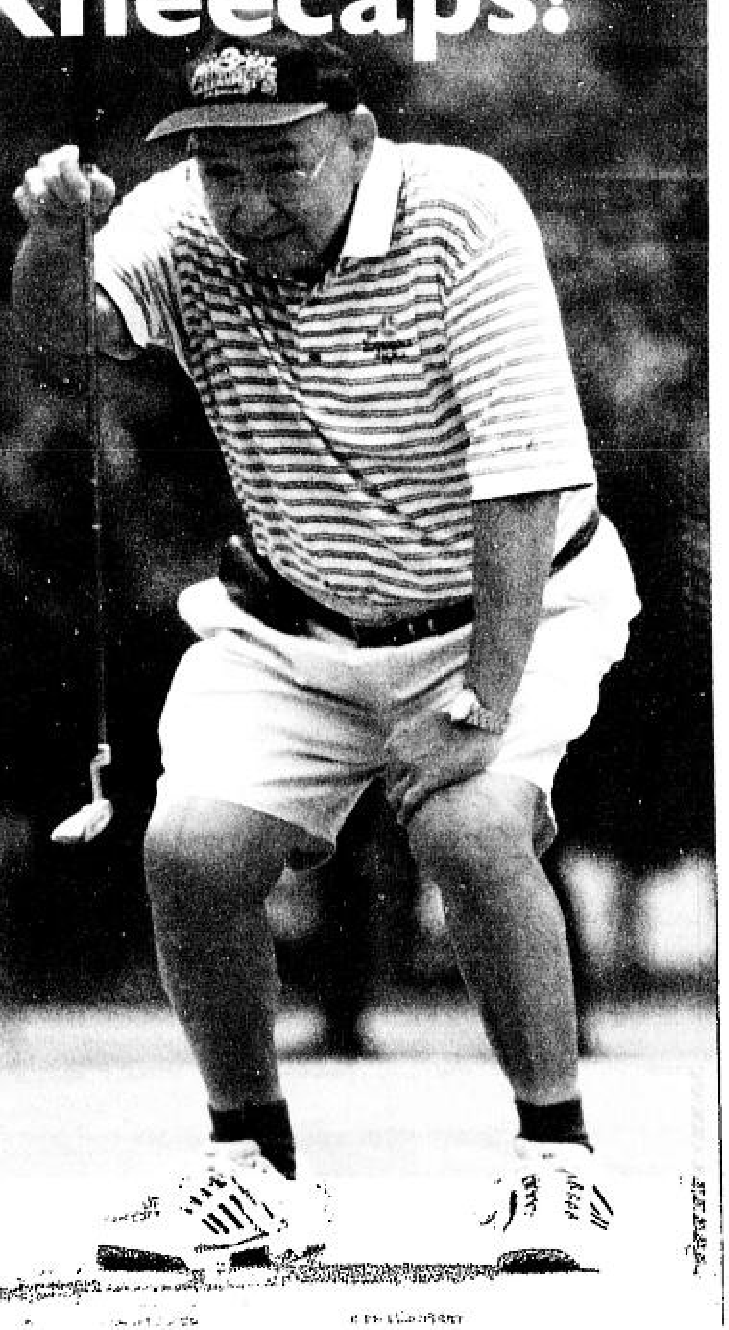

"Handicap? I Have New Kneecaps!"

"Thanks to St. Luke's Medical Center, I didn't have to go to the U.S. for my total knee replacement. Life has never been so good after my surgery."
Mr. Ramoncito Campos
Three-Time Olympian

Mr. Ramoncito Campos is one of the country's most outstanding athletes. He is a three-time Olympian, a member of the fabled Philippine basketball team of the 50s, and an inductee of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Yet his illustrious career as a sportsman almost ended when a degenerative condition caused debilitating pain and irreparable damage to his knees. A veteran of many epic hard court battles, the 84-year-old Mr. Campos mapped out the best strategy for the toughest fight yet of his life.

Three years ago, Mr. Campos decided to have bilateral total knee replacement at the **Center for Joint Replacement Surgery** of **St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine**.

Today, Mr. Campos continues his passion for athletic excellence. He recently won as Golf Champion in the Senior's Category of the Meralco Chairman's Cup. "I should have decided to undergo surgery earlier," Mr. Campos says, smiling. "I could have won more championship trophies."

Cutting-edge in Orthopedics

St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is the most modern and one of the best-staffed orthopedic facilities in the Philippines.

The Institute's staff of highly trained and respected specialists is complemented by state-of-the-art facilities for computer-navigated surgery involving spinal cases, ACL (an important ligament in the knee) reconstruction, total joint replacement and, recently, pelvic and complex fracture fixation that make precise placement of orthopedic implants possible.

The Institute offers the latest imaging technology (real-time fluoroscopy) that helps surgeons to perform precise orthopedic surgical procedures. Its introduction of minimally invasive surgical techniques in total joint replacement has resulted in less pain and shorter hospital stay for patients. It is staffed by specialists trained in prestigious international centers and who have excellent academic and clinical expertise. To date, the Institute has performed the most number of simple and complex spine, sports and total joint replacement surgical procedures in the country.

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2/3 of New Yorkers fear new attack

From page A1

Sixty-nine percent said they were "very concerned" about another attack in their hometown, compared with 74 percent in October 2001.

Outside New York, Americans have adjusted in many ways to the "new normal" of the post-Sept. 11 era, according to the national survey.

In contrast to the frantic fall of 2001, US fears of another attack seemed less acute and personal: Only 22 percent in the national poll said they were still "very concerned" about an attack where they live, down from 39 percent five years ago. Three-fourths said daily life had largely returned to normal.

But New Yorkers were more likely to say that they felt uneasy about the prospect of terrorist attacks. And they were less likely to say the federal government had done all that "could be reasonably expected" to protect the nation from future terrorist attacks; 72 percent of New Yorkers say the government could do more, compared with 58 percent in the national survey.

Nearly six in 10 New Yorkers said they were not willing to work on a high floor in a new building at the World Trade Center site. Forty percent said they still felt nervous and edgy because of the attacks.

"I don't feel safe," said Elizabeth Vinas, 43, a receptionist from Brooklyn. "I don't know when there will be another attack, I just think they will try again."

Gwendolyn Branch, 50, a Manhattan homemaker, said: "I just have a feeling that something is going to happen."

Homegrown terrorists

In Washington, FBI Director Robert Mueller said there was a rising threat from homegrown terrorists but cautioned that foreign groups were far from vanquished and still consumed more bureau resources.

"We have certainly hundreds" of people in this country that the bureau is investigating with varied levels of intensity, Mueller told a group of reporters on Wednesday.

"But if you're looking at terrorism across the board... we have several thousand cases—although they may be intelligence cases" to gather information rather criminal cases headed for prosecution.

With attention lately focused on the arrests of four groups of largely homegrown plotters in the past year in Miami, Atlanta, Toledo, Ohio, and Torrance, California, Mueller took pains to point out that al-Qaida and other international terrorists still represented a large threat.

"We've decimated al-Qaida's leadership and taken away their sanctuary, but there are still individuals in the al-Qaida hierarchy who are capable of organizing, financing and supporting attacks in the United States or against United States interests around the world," Mueller said.

"One cannot dismiss the potency of al-Qaida to undertake attacks," he added, but there are now also groups here and in other countries "motivated by radical Islamist ideology to undertake actions on their own."

Mueller added that many of the bureau's domestic cases "may have ties overseas."

The number of overall terrorist investigations has remained fairly static for the past two years after spiking immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and after passage of the USA Patriot Act, Mueller said.

And FBI Deputy Director John Pistole said: "Many, if not most, of those cases are dealing with material support for terrorism. These are not bomb-throwers; these are people out there raising money or recruiting."

New resources

With the rise of homegrown plots, Mueller said the bureau was putting some of the new resources it acquired after 9/11 to work on trying "to identify the various stages of radicalization and . . . those who would be vulnerable to radicalization and those who would do the radicalization, so you could address them before they could engage" in attacks.

These measures include doubling the number of FBI intelligence analysts and tripling its linguists and putting analysts in all 56 bureau field offices.

At the same time, the FBI has ramped up its regional joint terrorism task forces from 35 to 101 since 2001, expanding the number of federal, state and local agents assigned to them from 1,000 to nearly 4,000.

The FBI is looking at where radicalization can occur. Mueller said this was not necessarily in mosques but anywhere radical fundamentalism could be taught by individuals or even one charismatic individual, including gyms, schools, universities and prisons.

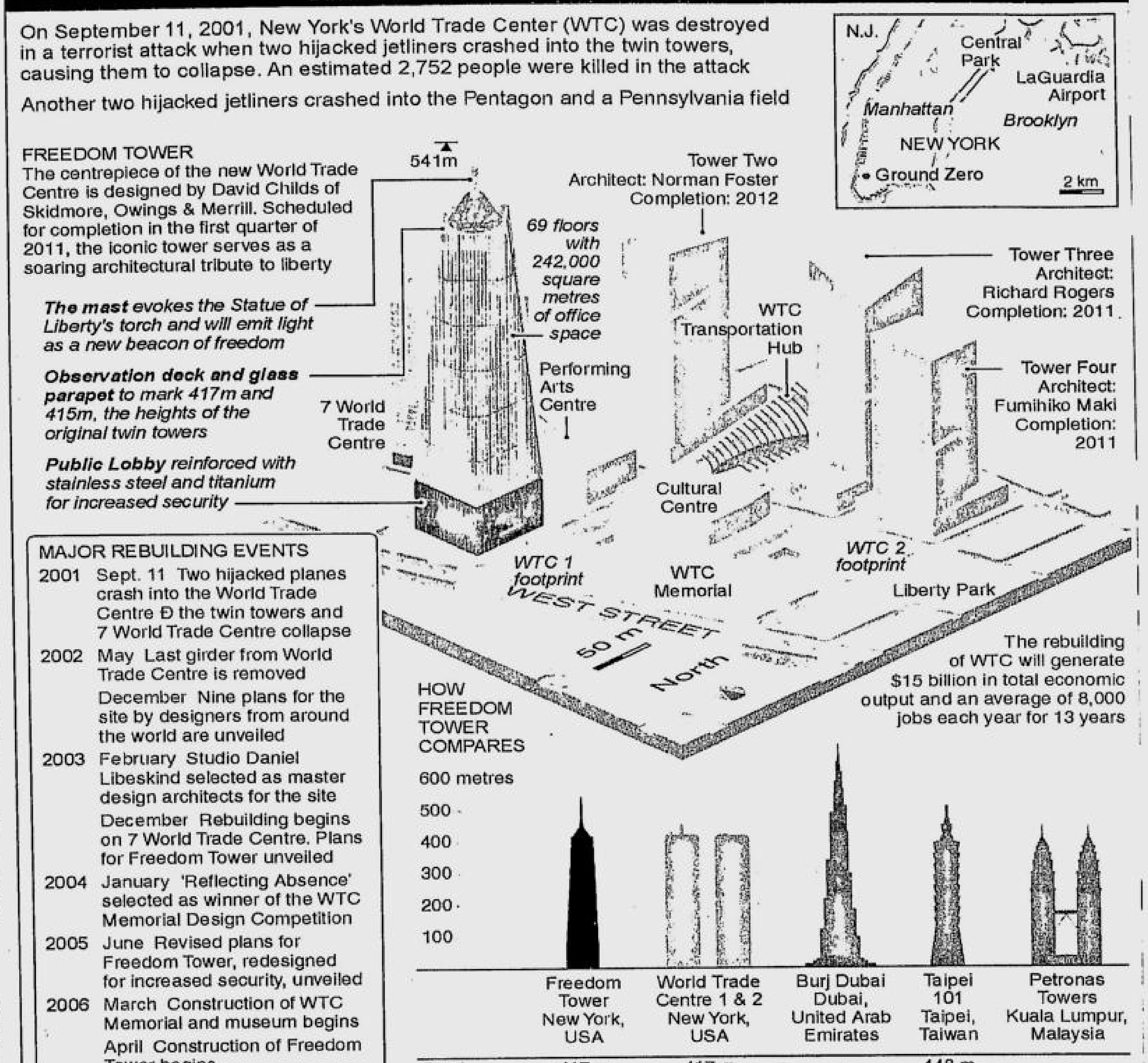
"I hope the American people understand this problem (of terrorism) is going to be with us for a substantial period of time," Mueller said. "And the FBI does a heck of a good job."

He added that the bureau had expanded its resources and transformed its antiterrorism focus from after-the-fact arrests to prevention while "we've maintained our operational tempo" against public corruption, organized crime, civil rights, corporate crime and gangs. *Reports from New York Times News Service and AP*

REBUILDING GROUND ZERO

On September 11, 2001, New York's World Trade Center (WTC) was destroyed in a terrorist attack when two hijacked jetliners crashed into the twin towers, causing them to collapse. An estimated 2,752 people were killed in the attack

Another two hijacked jetliners crashed into the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field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NEW YORK
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2 km
FREEDOM TOWER
The centrepiece of the new World Trade Centre is designed by David Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2011, the iconic tower serves as a soaring architectural tribute to liberty
541m
The mast evokes the Statue of Liberty's torch and will emit light as a new beacon of freedom
Observation deck and glass parapet to mark 417m and 415m, the heights of the original twin towers
Public Lobby reinforced with stainless steel and titanium for increased security
69 floors with 242,000 square metres of office space
7 World Trade Centre
Performing Arts Centre
Tower Two Architect: Norman Foster Completion: 2012
WTC Transportation Hub
Tower Three Architect: Richard Rogers Completion: 2011
Tower Four Architect: Fumihiko Maki Completion: 2011
Cultural Centre
WTC 1 footprint
WTC Memorial
WTC 2 footprint
Liberty Park
WEST STREET
50 m
North
The rebuilding of WTC will generate $15 billion in total economic output and an average of 8,000 jobs each year for 13 years
HOW FREEDOM TOWER COMPARES
600 metres
500
400
300
200
100

MAJOR REBUILDING EVENTS

2001	Sept. 11 Two hijacked planes crash into the World Trade Centre Ð the twin towers and 7 World Trade Centre collapse
2002	May Last girder from World Trade Centre is removed December Nine plans for the site by designers from around the world are unveiled
2003	February Studio Daniel Libeskind selected as master design architects for the site December Rebuilding begins on 7 World Trade Centre. Plans for Freedom Tower unveiled
2004	January 'Reflecting Absence' selected as winner of the WTC Memorial Design Competition
2005	June Revised plans for Freedom Tower, redesigned for increased security, unveiled
2006	March Construction of WTC Memorial and museum begins April Construction of Freedom Tower begins May Rebuilt 7 World Trade Centre is officially open

	Freedom Tower New York, USA	World Trade Centre 1 & 2 New York, USA	Burj Dubai Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Taipei 101 Taipei, Taiwan	Petronas Towers Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Roof	417 m	417 m	-	448 m	-
Spire	541 m	526 m	705 m	508 m	452 m
Completion	2011	1972	2008	2004	1998

Sources: Lower Manhattan Development Corp., Silverstein Properties, Skyscraper Page

REUTERS

Recruitment firm hits back at 28 RP nurses

From page A1

Sentosa Recruitment Agency (SRA) said that several nursing home employers in New York had filed labor and administrative complaints against the Filipinos for not honoring their contracts and endangering the lives of the patients they left behind.

The company's mother firm, SentosaCare LLC, is also suing the nurses, their New York-based lawyer Felix Vinluan and a recruitment agency, Juno Staffing System, for damages for reportedly enticing the nurses to abandon its nursing facilities.

The statement drew a "stark contrast" to the picture painted by the Filipino health workers led by Elmer Jacinto, a licensed doctor who took up nursing and topped the Philippine nursing board exams in 2004. Through their lawyers, they claimed that they were underpaid, overworked and lived "in leaking abandoned house(s)."

POEA reaction

Based on their complaint, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) suspended the license of SRA on May 24 but lifted the penalty less than a month later. That reversal, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a privilege speech on Monday, was due to the intervention of President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz yesterday defended her decision to lift the suspension even as she denied insinuations that it was prompted by a telephone call from Defensor. The Malacañang official earlier acknowledged making the call but said he merely wanted to ask Baldoz to clarify the order.

The POEA ordered the suspension on the basis of an endorsement from the Philippine Consulate in New York, which forwarded the complaints of the 28 nurses alleging misrepresentation and breach of contract by its employers.

SentosaCare, however, alleged that the suspension was unfair because no formal hearing or investigation was ever conducted.

Baldoz explained that she lifted the order only after SentosaCare submitted documentary evidence refuting the charges.

She recounted that after the suspension was imposed, the POEA received several letters from other Sentosa applicants who expressed apprehension over the penalty's repercussions on their deployment to the United States.

Monetary claims

Through their lawyer in the Philippines, the nurses also sought money damages by filing a case with the National Labor Relations Commission. Another complaint of discrimination before the US Department of Justice was initiated against their employer.

"All these circumstances were taken into consideration when the suspension order was lifted," Baldoz explained.

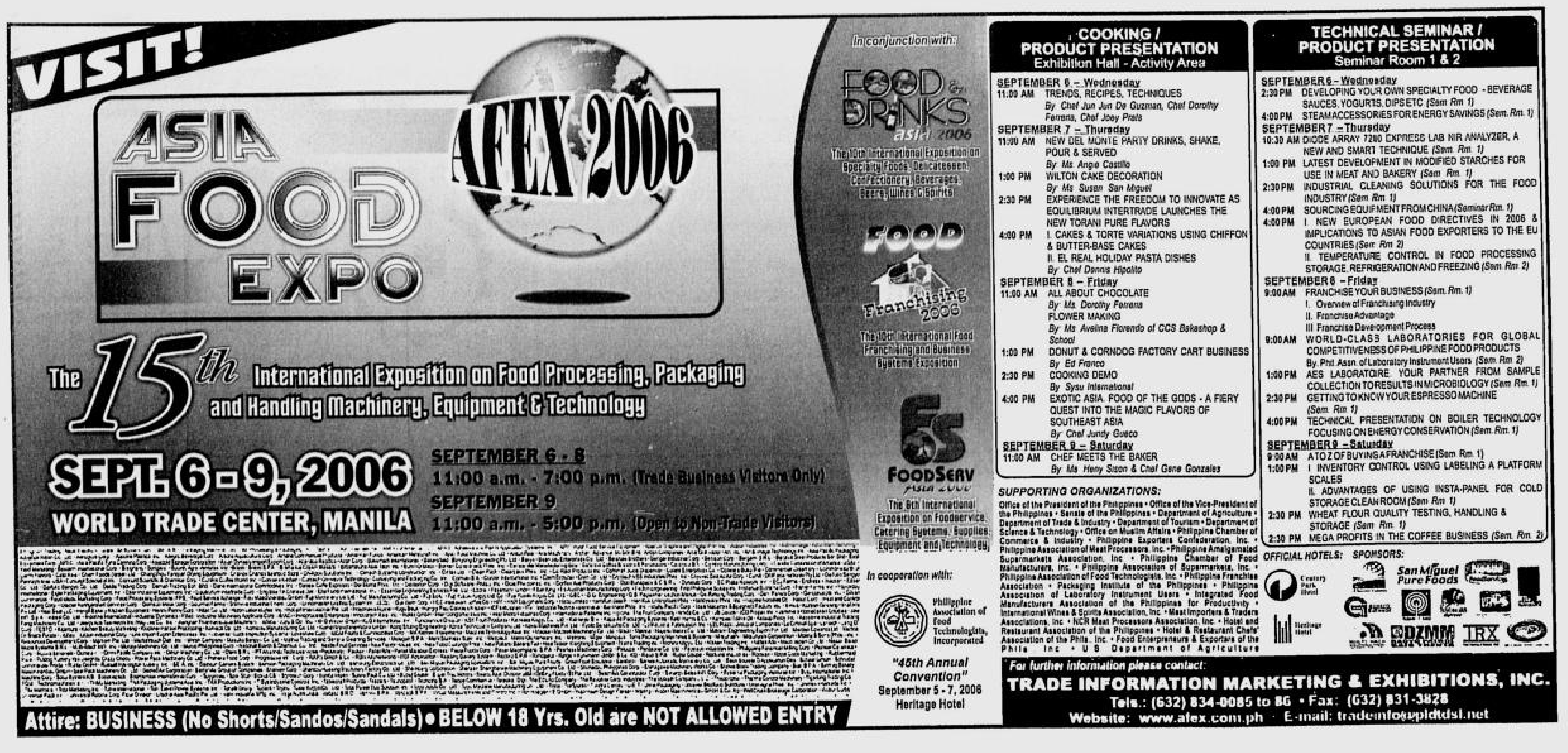
"We also took note that of the more than 200 medical workers deployed, this was the first case filed against Sentosa. Significantly, after the lifting, no additional cases have been filed against the respondents."

In its e-mail to the INQUIRER, SRA said that nursing home employers, represented by Bent Philipson, were seriously considering filing criminal charges against the health workers.

Likewise, SentosaCare has called on the New York State Department of Education to revoke or cancel the Filipinos' permits to practice there.

"We strongly deny any wrongdoing or misrepresentation as has been described [in media reports in the Philippines]. All contracts and documents submitted by these nurses to the US Embassy in Manila prior to the issuance of their immigrant visas were fully explained to them by the foreign employers," SRA said, quoting Philipson.

"Rather, the nurses ... resigned without any notice to their employers and in violation of New York State Department of Education regulations and their employment agreements," Philipson said.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September 5 - 7, 2006
Heritage Hotel

COOKING / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Exhibition Hall - Activity Area
SEPTEMBER 6 – Wednesday
11:00 AM TRENDS, RECIPES, TECHNIQUES
By Chef Jun Jun De Guzman, Chef Dorothy Ferrera, Chef Joey Prats
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
11:00 AM NEW DEL MONTE PARTY DRINKS, SHAKE, POUR & SERVED
By Ms Angie Castillo
1:00 PM WILTON CAKE DECORATION
By Ms Susan San Miguel
2:30 PM EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE AS EQUILIBRIUM INTERTRADE LAUNCHES THE NEW TORANI PURE FLAVORS
4:00 PM I. CAKES & TORTE VARIATIONS USING CHIFFON & BUTTER-BASE CAKES
II. EL REAL HOLIDAY PASTA DISHES
By Chef Dennis Hipolito
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
11:00 AM ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE
By Ms Dorothy Ferrera
FLOWER MAKING
By Ms Avelina Florendo of CCS Bakeshop & School
1:00 PM DONUT & CORNDOG FACTORY CART BUSINESS
By Ed Franco
2:30 PM COOKING DEMO
By Sysu International
4:00 PM EXOTIC ASIA. FOOD OF THE GODS - A FIERY QUEST INTO THE MAGIC FLAVORS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
By Chef Jundy Gueco
SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
11:00 AM CHEF MEETS THE BAKER
By Ms Heny Sison & Chef Gene Gonzales

TECHNICAL SEMINAR / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Seminar Room 1 & 2
SEPTEMBER 6 – Wednesday
2:30 PM DEVELOPING YOUR OWN SPECIALTY FOOD - BEVERAGE SAUCES, YOGURTS, DIPS ETC (Sem Rm 1)
4:00 PM STEAM ACCESSORIES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS (Sem. Rm. 1)
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
10:30 AM DIODE ARRAY 7200 EXPRESS LAB NIR ANALYZER, A NEW AND SMART TECHNIQUE (Sem. Rm. 1)
1:00 PM LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN MODIFIED STARCHES FOR USE IN MEAT AND BAKERY (Sem. Rm. 1)
2:30 PM INDUSTRIAL CLEANING SOLUTIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY (Sem Rm. 1)
4:00 PM SOURCING EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA (Seminar Rm. 1)
4:00 PM I. NEW EUROPEAN FOOD DIRECTIVES IN 2006 & IMPLICATIONS TO ASIAN FOOD EXPORTERS TO THE EU COUNTRIES (Sem Rm 2)
II. TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN FOOD PROCESSING STORAGE, REFRIGERATION AND FREEZING (Sem Rm 2)
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
9:00 AM FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS (Sem. Rm. 1)
I. Overview of Franchising Industry
II. Franchise Advantage
III Franchise Development Process
9:00 AM WORLD-CLASS LABORATORIES FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF PHILIPPINE FOOD PRODUCTS
By Phil Assn. of Laboratory Instrument Users (Sem. Rm 2)
1:00 PM AES LABORATOIRE: YOUR PARTNER FROM SAMPLE COLLECTION TO RESULTS IN MICROBIOLOGY (Sem Rm. 1)
2:30 PM GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ESPRESSO MACHINE (Sem. Rm 1)
4:00 PM TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ON BOILER TECHNOLOGY FOCUSING ON ENERGY CONSERVATION (Sem. Rm. 1)
SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
9:00 AM A TO Z OF BUYING A FRANCHISE (Sem Rm. 1)
1:00 PM I INVENTORY CONTROL USING LABELING A PLATFORM SCALES
II. ADVANTAGES OF USING INSTA-PANEL FOR COLD STORAGE CLEAN ROOM (Sem Rm 1)
2:30 PM WHEAT FLOUR QUALITY TESTING, HANDLING & STORAGE (Sem Rm. 1)
2:30 PM MEGA PROFITS IN THE COFFEE BUSINESS (Sem. Rm. 2)

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MUNTING PARAISO
Young patients of Munting Paraiso, a special cancer ward for indigent children at the UP-PGH Cancer Institute, receive gifts of food, toys, medicine and cash from donors spearheaded by Ricky Reyes during Wednesday's sixth anniversary celebration of the ward. The children were also entertained by five finalist from Pinoy pop kids with song and dance numbers. Assisting Reyes is Catherine Untalan, Miss Earth Philippines 2006.

Snubbed anew, Court of Appeals gives Palparan Sept. 20 ultimatum

By Armand N. Nocum

CONTROVERSIAL ARMY MAJ. Gen. Jovito Palparan again failed to appear before a Court of Appeals hearing regarding two missing university students yesterday, prompting the court to give him a Sept. 20 ultimatum to appear before the court or be arrested for contempt.

The hearing is aimed at getting the military to produce the bodies of University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Capadan and Karen Empeno, who were allegedly abducted by uniformed men in Bulacan last June. Relatives of the missing girls alleged that General Palparan and his men were behind the abductions.

It was the fourth time that Palparan ignored the summons of the court. In a Sept. 1 resolution, the appellate court warned Palparan against further ignoring its summons, saying "that another act of disobedience to the court's order would be dealt with severely."

However, Assistant Solicitor Gen. Amparo Tang said Palparan was not able to attend yesterday's hearing because he attended a conference with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"He is retiring soon and there are many things that he has to attend to before his retirement," Tang told the court. Palparan is set to retire on Sept. 11.

In a "mandatory appearance" order issued by Associate Justice Jose Mendoza, the CA warned Palparan, head of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based at Fort Magsaygay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, that it would finally grant the motion of the petitioners' counsel to hold the general in direct contempt of court and subsequently issue a warrant for his arrest if he again fails to appear.

Meanwhile, Palparan's no-show at the hearing elicited new catcalls from the militant women's group Gabriela. The women called Palparan and his men "big spineless cowards" for not facing the court and the relatives of the missing students."

We from Gabriela award Palparan with a Medal of Cowardice," said Gabriela spokesperson Maristel Garcia, who led 20 members of the militant women's group in a rally before the CA building in Ma. Orosa Street, Manila.

Noli closes illegal dump

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday closed an illegal dumpsite in Cabuyao, Laguna, despite resistance from 200 protesters who were mostly workers of Severino Hain Enterprises Inc. which owns and operates the dumpsite.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), personally handed over the cease and desist order issued by Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DENR) to the owners of the illegal facility.

De Castro said the closure was necessary to protect the health of some 8,000 families living in the area in the adjacent Southville, the government's resettlement area for railway families from Manila, Makati and Cabuyao.

"This means that starting immediately after I handed the closure order, no dump trucks would be allowed to enter this facility," De Castro told the owners.

The owners attempted to justify confined operation of the dumpsite but De Castro stood firm on the DENR order dated Sept. 6, 2006.

"It is very clear from the order that the illegal dumpsite has made a lot of violations and is severely affecting the health and life of the relocatees. This facility has to be closed now," De Castro said.

De Castro then instructed PNP Laguna provincial director Senior Supt. Col. Luisito de Leon to make sure that the dumpsite would remain closed.

"If possible, I want you to station your men here just to make sure that the order is being enforced at all times. I will have this facility monitored," he told De Leon, who was also present when the Vice President served the order.

Despite complaints from residents and repeated closure orders from DENR and the local government, the facility reportedly continued to produce waste leachate in the dumpsite, which also affects the Laguna Bay.

"This is why we're determined to close it now. More would be in danger if the bay gets affected," De Castro stressed.

The Vice President also questioned why the dumpsite had been accommodating waste from Biñan and Los Baños when it is located in Cabuyao.

He said the dumpsite should not have been allowed by the local government to operate in Cabuyao in the first place.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 8, 2006
Birth of Mary
1st Reading: Mic 5:1-4 (or Rom 8:28-30)
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 (or 1:18-23)

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel, which means: God-with-us.

Commentary

Mary's birth is celebrated because the birth of her child gives her meaning. It is her child who will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the name of God. And God's name in Jesus is Peace. God transforms everything in the lives of those who love him, so that they become true images of the beloved Son of God. This describes both Mary and each of us. He is our elder brother and with Mary we are all the beloved daughters and sons of God, sharing in God's glory. We are all born to bring forth the Word of God in our lives and worlds.

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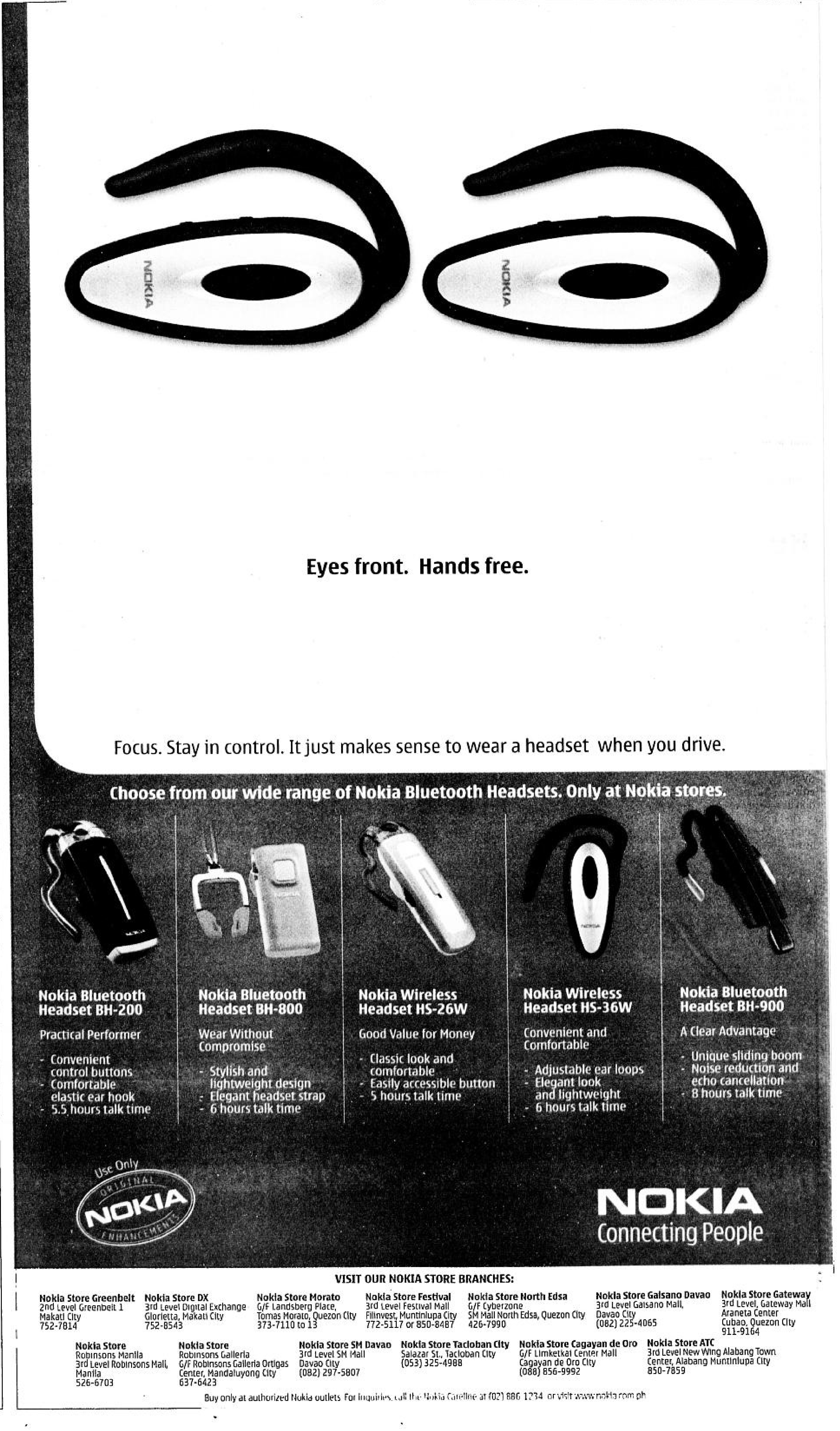
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2 senators urge GMA to deal with secur

From page A1

was identified by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, according to Ermita, as the counterterrorism expert who talked to the INQUIRER last week about his test. Duterte, Ms Arroyo's antiterrorism consultant, said he did not sanction the stunt, according to Ermita.

"I support the executive action because this man went to media instead of making a confidential report to security officials. He claimed he brought live explosives, but he did not mention who ordered him (to do so) and there was no authority who is saying he ordered this. So what is this all about? Is this an activity to promote his (Macariola's) book?" Biazon said.

He said Macariola and his boss should face the consequences of what they did because it also put the country in a bad light.

Biazon had denounced Macariola's test as irresponsible because, he said, it put the lives of innocent people in danger and bruised the country's international image.

'Some benefits' from incident

But Biazon said there were also "some benefits" from the incident that reportedly involved the smuggling of bomb components by the counterterrorism expert on a commercial flight on Aug. 14 from the Manila domestic airport to Davao and back to Manila on the same day.

"The government should not disregard any lessons learned from this," Biazon said in a phone interview.

Biazon said the government must address three issues: Whether the training of security personnel assigned to the airports was proper and adequate in view of advanced terror tactics; the deficiency of security equipment to detect explosives at the airports, and the deficiency in security policies that need to be addressed with new laws such as the antiterror bill.

"I would ask the executive department to expedite its investigation on this because lessons learned from this may be inputted in the antiterror bill," Biazon said.

The Senate is still deliberating the Malacañang-certified legislation.

Biazon said opposition to the measure centers on the issue of "trustworthiness of our law enforcement agencies" and whether the measure could be used as a political tool.

"There are fears that this could be used to abuse power and the possibility that this can be used (by the administration) against the opposition. So those are the issues that this bill is yet to hurdle," Biazon said.

'Life-saving wake-up call'

Roxas said he was not out to defend Macariola but said the embarrassment he caused may turn out to be a "life-saving wake-up call" for security officials and the public at large.

"It is not enough that security personnel on duty at the time of Macariola's flight are now being questioned. I think what is of greater urgency is to find out the capability and level of alertness of our security personnel in all national and local airports and other ports of entry," Roxas said.

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THE MANILA INTE
AUTHORITY GIVES
JOKES ABOUT CAR
IN THE AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT WILL BE TR
ANYONE CRACKIN
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SECURITY GROUP
THANK YOU VERY
ALL HAVE A SAFE AN

A SECURITY officer stands beside a sign warning passengers against cracking
domestic terminal.

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi was mum yesterday on Malacañang's order to file charges against Macariola, saying it was now a "police matter." He said the National Bureau of Investigation had been asked to assist in the investigation. "We're waiting for the final result," Cusi told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Earlier, Cusi and poli
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as stated by the Internati
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and airport users.

Yesterday, Cusi expre
and the US Transportati

Palace vows to help a

By Christine O. Avendano
and Abigail L. Ho

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID the authorities were now moving to look into the medical needs of those suffering from diseases or symptoms related to the MT Solar I oil spill off Guimaras Island.

"Upon the instructions of the President, Task Force Guimaras has stepped up medical assistance and is taking action to seal off the affected shorelines of the province from loiterers, particularly children, to prevent them from being exposed to health risks," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said the Department of Health was also adding more health workers so they could attend to local residents and those behind the cleanup operations who had fallen ill.

"Public health is among the President's top priority concerns in this campaign and we will exhaust all measures to ensure that the damage brought by the oil spill will not take its toll on the health of local residents who have had enough of the adverse effects of this tragedy," he said.

700 villagers stricken ill

Bunye made the statement a day after it was reported that more than 700 coastal villagers exposed to the bunker fuel oil that leaked from the MT Solar I had manifested spill-related symptoms and diseases.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed an executive order creating the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council that would be on top of the formulation, coordination and monitoring of programs and projects that aim to step up the economic growth and development of certain cities and municipalities in Iloilo and Guimaras.

Compensation process starts

The International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund, Petron

WORKERS hired by Petron unload sac
Guimaras to be loaded on a barge.

Corp.'s insurer for oil spill incidents, has started the compensation process in Guimaras through the conduct of workshops that will make the claims-making process easier for the victims.

In a statement yesterday, Petron said the Protection and Indemnity Club (P&I), the insurer of MT Solar I owner Sunshine Maritime, would cover the first tier of the insurance. This involves the maximum amount of $6.7 million and covers pollution liability, damage to fixed and floating objects and to other properties, and wreck removal.

Beyond $6.7 million, Petron said

Skipper clueless on wha

From page A1

were just hit by a wave," Aguro told the SBMI.

Aguro said he suspected the bow was punctured after the Solar I left the Iloilo anchorage area near Guimaras where it had sought shelter.

He said he knew that as of 1 p.m. on the day the tanker sank, the hole wasn't there yet. The vessel sank three hours later. "I suspect that the hole formed at 1400 hours to 1500 hours," he said. "If it was there before we left Guimaras, we would have sunk in Guimaras."

Pumpman Jessie Angeling also said he did not feel anything hit the ship. "I only felt the waves," Angeling said. Asked what he thought happened, Angeling said the vessel could have hit a hard object when it was rolling round and round as it was going down.

Aguro also said that the water coming into the ballast tanks could have caused the Solar I to list on its starboard side. Ballast tanks are used to balance a ship and to minimize rocking. They are filled or emptied with water depending on the needs of the vessel.

He said the hole in the bow could have caused water to come into ballast tank No. 1, which was near the port side.

But SBMI chair Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja said the hole was in the port bow, and the vessel listed on its starboard side.

Tanks sealed

Aguro said the water in ballast tank No. 1 in the middle of the ship could have entered ballast

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARY OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of P500,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors*. Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 6, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
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Telephone No. - *(632) 455-2758*
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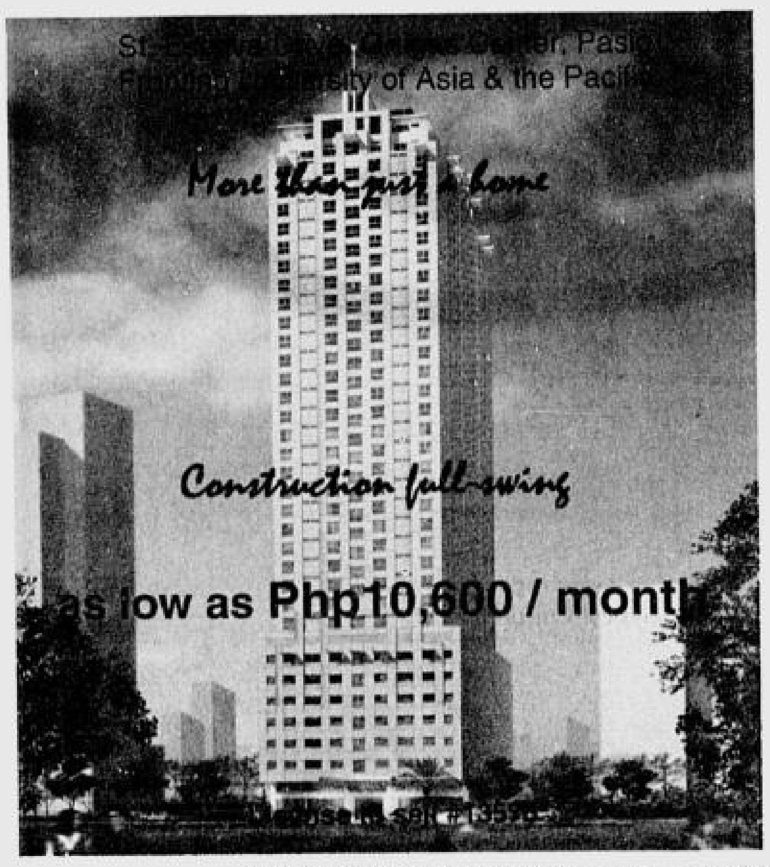
(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Sept 1 & 8, 2006)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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

REPAIR OF CONTAINER YARD / OPEN STORAGE (RECLAIMED AREA)
PORT OF TAGBILARAN, TAGBILARAN CITY

Scope of Works:

1. *Demolition and Disposal Works*
2. *Excavation and Chipping works*
3. *Sub-base Course*
4. *Base Course*
5. *Lateral Drainage System*
6. *Portland Cement Concrete Pavement*

The *Philippine Ports Authority* through the Corporate Budget of the Authority for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of ***P 12,741,379.55*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCs) to payment under the contract for ***Repair of Container Yard - Open Storage (Reclaimed Area), Port of Tagbilaran.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *Philippine Ports Authority* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the above scope of works. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs starting **September 7, 2006**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Bids and Awards Committee, Admin. Building, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on ***September 18, 2006 at BAC Secretariat, Admin. Building, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City.*** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City on or before ***5:00 P.M. of September 18, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00 ***exclusive of VAT***). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his *authorized* representative from ***September 27-September 29, 2006 @ 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.***

The Bids and Awards Committee for Engineering Projects of PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** at the following address, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran Conference Room, Admin. Building, Port Area, Tagbilaran City

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before ***1:00 p.m. of October 10, 2006.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following forms and amount:

a.) Cash, certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit – 1% of ABC
b.) Bank guarantee — 1.5% of ABC
c.) Surety Bond — 2.5% of ABC
d.) Foreign Government Guarantee — 100% of ABC

or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on ***October 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran Conference Room, Port Area, Tagbilaran City.

- Equipment Requirements (owned or leased)
  - *2 units Dumptrucks (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Backhoe (0.40 cu m.) w/ Concrete Breaker (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Payloader (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Jackhammer with Compressor (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Road Grader (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Road Roller (owned/leased)*
  - *1 unit Water Truck (owned/leased)*
  - *2 units one bagger Concrete Mixer (owned)*
  - *2 units Concrete Vibrator (owned)*
  - *1 unit Bar Cutter (owned)*
  - *1 unit Concrete Cutter (owned)*
  - *1 unit Welding Machine (owned)*
  - *1 unit Gas Cutting Outfit w/ oxy-acetylene (owned/leased)*
- Required PCAB Registration · Small B - Ports & Harbor
- Cost of Eligibility Documents · P 1,000.00 (exclusive of VAT)
- Project Duration · 150 Calendar Days

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat · Telephone Nos. 501-8138, 235-4128
PPA Website · www.ppa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **RICHARD B. ELOPRE**
Chairman, BAC Engineering Projects
PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran

Noted:
(Sgd.) **RAUL R. OBLENDA**
Port Manager

(PDI – September 1 & 8 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 329-2165/320-6246
Fax No. (033) 3204764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 6**, through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of ***Eleven Million Six Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P11,653,200.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Security Services for CY 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **National Food Authority, Region 6** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of security services for its Regional/Provincial offices, owned and leased warehouses, other installations and facilities. Delivery of services is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2007.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **National Food Authority, Regional Office 6** and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below starting ***September 1 to 15, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **National Food Authority** will hold a ***Pre-Bid Conference*** open to all interested parties on ***September 19, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.*** at the Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***October 2, 2006 not later than 9:30 a.m.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form or combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC, to be bid
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by any reputable bank or	One Percent (1%)
Surety bond issued by GSIS marked "callable on demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***October 2, 2006 @ 9:30 a.m.*** at Iloilo Regional Office 6 Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **National Food Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165
Fax No. (033) 329-4764

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairperson/ARD

(PDI - Sept. 1 & 8, 2006)

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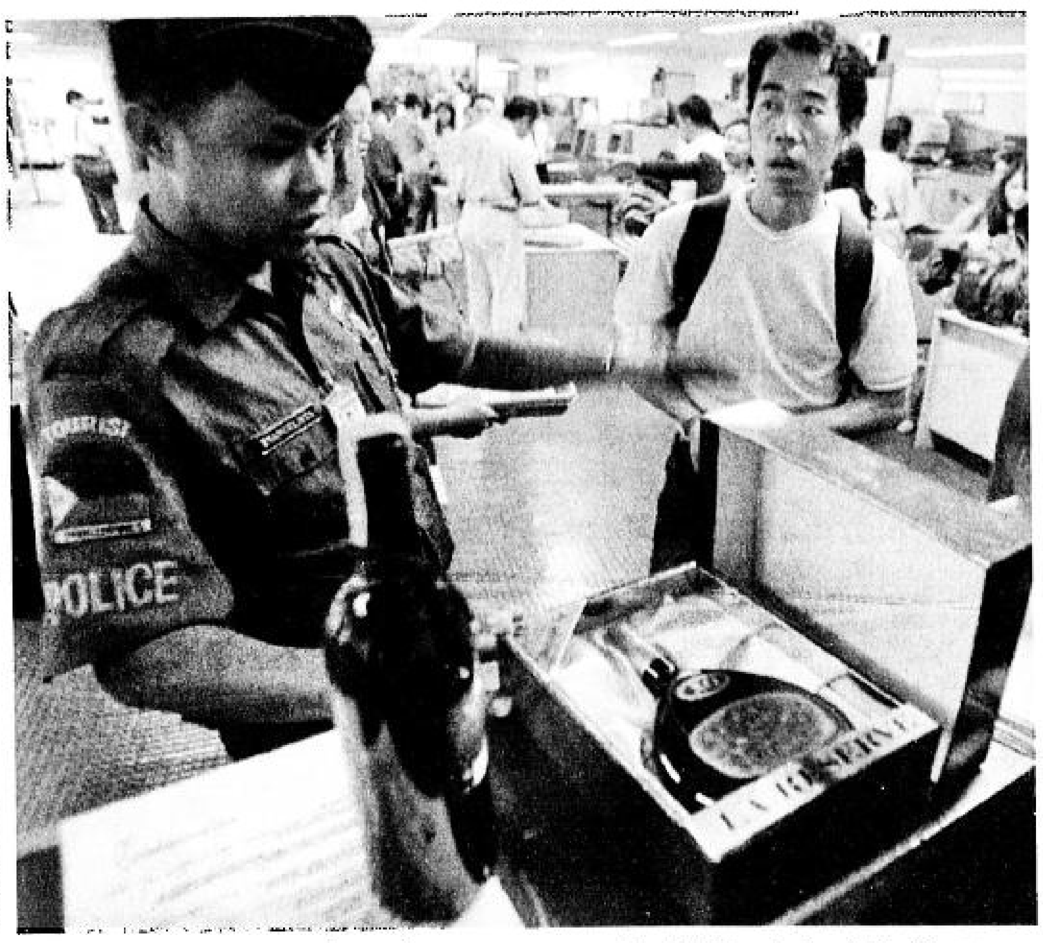

AIRPORT security personnel question a passenger over two bottles of wine at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Thursday.
JESS YUSON

e aviation officials dis-
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ith aviation authorities
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the safety of travelers

sed belief that the Icao
n Security Administra-

tion would be more circumspect before reacting to the reported incident.

"They cannot be easily misled by the story. These are responsible organizations. They know better in the business of security," Cusi said.

Icao security audit

Cusi said the Icao had just completed a security audit at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) before the INQUIRER story about the security breach at the domestic terminal broke out.

"All security setups are subjected to tests and audits and we manage to meet their standards. We also (take into consideration) their suggestions or recommendations for improvements in airport security," Cusi said.

More stringent security measures were ordered implemented at all domestic terminals in the country following the INQUIRER report. The directive was issued by Chief Supt. Andres Caro, director of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG).

The measures include the mandatory removal and X-ray screening of passengers' shoes, belts and cigarette and eyeglass cases at final screening. All items, whether metallic or nonmetallic, in which prohibited items or substances could be concealed would also have to be X-rayed at the final check.

At domestic airports where there are no X-ray machines, all electronic gadgets would be tested and physically inspected.

All passengers and airport users would be subjected to a handheld metal detector check or walk-through X-rays. If the metal detectors sound off, the PNP-ASG must ensure that the cause is resolved before allowing the person entry.

There would also be a mandatory frisking or pat down of all passengers and airport users at the final screening whether or not the walk-through metal detectors go off.

All chiefs of PNP-ASG units nationwide were directed to conduct seminars on improvised explosive devices (IED).

iling Guimaras folk

ks containing oil-soaked debris from a truck in Cabalagnan wharf in
AFP/ROMEO GACAD

the IOPC would extend compensation of not more than $315 million for "pollution damage," which covers cleanup costs, property damage, consequential and economic loss.

Meeting with communities

"In line with our commitment to bring relief to the people of Guimaras as soon as possible, we have urged IOPC to immediately process the claims made by the victims of the Solar I incident," Petron chair and chief executive officer Nicasio Alcantara said.

"IOPC and P&I representatives have already met with affected communities, including fishermen and those engaged in the tourism industry," he added.

The IOPC 1992 Fund was created as a result of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, of which the country became a member in 1999.

Petron has paid out about P120 million to the fund since that time, the oil firm said.

As of Sept. 6, Petron said that under its Ligtas Guimaras program, nearly 125 kilometers of shoreline had been cleaned and 1,300 metric tons of debris had been collected.

t caused hole in tanker

tank No. 2 on the starboard side if the valve between them was open.

Aguro and Angeling also confirmed that the 10 cargo oil tanks aboard the Solar I were sealed by Petron, which had chartered the vessel, prior to its departure.

The two were shown the video of an open oil tank cover and an open hatch aboard the tanker during the hearing.

Aguro said it was possible that pressure from within could have caused the cover of cargo oil tank No. 4 to open.

Tank No. 4

Asked about the Shinsei Maru report that there was no more oil inside tank No. 4, he said the tanker had remained under the sea for several days before the ROV came and, in that time, the contents might have seeped out.

Angeling also said pressure could have caused the tank cover to open. He said that usually the cover would not open without a person doing it.

"But if there was pressure, it might open," he said.

Angeling said the open cover of tank No. 4 that was seen on the video did not appear to still have a seal, but added that he could not be sure if there were no seals as well on the other covers since this was not shown in the video.

As for the open hatch, Angeling said it was closed when the Solar I resumed its voyage and could have opened when the tanker sank.

He said the crew ensured that all cargo hatches aboard the ship were closed during a voyage.

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OPINION

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Peewee's playhouse

EDITORIAL

TIME AND AGAIN, EMBATTLED LOCAL EXECUTIVES have resorted to a tried, tested and ultimately pointless script. Facing administrative and other charges, they proclaim their defiance. Their supporters surround them. Hostility toward the government and officials set to replace the local executive is shown. Then cooler heads prevail, a new regime takes over, and the old regime vows to fight on.

Whether it was Joseph Estrada vowing never to relinquish the mayoralty of San Juan in the wake of the 1986 Edsa Revolution, or Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad insisting he's being persecuted politically, mayors have tried to simulate people power to keep themselves in office.

Trinidad claims that he has been suspended from office on partisan grounds. Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno naturally insists that he is only enforcing a decision of the Ombudsman. Both sides got media exposure, but in the end, what the national authorities decided was what was enforced.

It is undeniable that the suspension of mayors carries with it political benefits for some. Those who benefit immediately are councilors and other officials who end up drafted to replace the suspended incumbents. National officials, too, can appear to be interested in enforcing the law. However, there are political benefits, at times, for those who are ousted or suspended. They can proclaim themselves political martyrs and rally the faithful.

Freedom of assembly—and thus, the chance to protest—is an integral part of democracy. What the public generally frowns on are attempts by officials to simulate a popular movement. There is nothing more patently ridiculous than a political machinery based on access to public funds being used to imitate a public clamor for the rectification of wrongs. That is why, whether they like it or not, politicians always end up reaping public hostility when they try to pass off their partisan mobilizations as representative of the genuine public mood.

Do the supporters of Trinidad have a right to protest? Of course, they do. But do they have a right to do so in a manner that makes them appear like they are above the law? That is another question entirely. And that is best answered by appealing to both sides to respect what they claim to have foremost in their hearts: the interest and welfare of the public.

As one of the basic foundation stones of government, local officials have responsibilities that must be carried out, regardless of who is in office, or whether certain offices are under a cloud. Trinidad and his opponents can fight it out in the courts. They can even mobilize in the streets. But it would be best for all concerned if they did so without impeding all the other business that brings citizens to the city or town hall. Public property is always that—public, not private—and there is something disgraceful about an incumbent padlocking his office, and wrapping the door handles in chains, merely to prevent its occupation by someone else.

The sight of a DILG undersecretary, with 200 policemen, forcing their way through the massed ranks of Trinidad's supporters, was equally deplorable. Allan Panaligan, the new mayor by appointment, angrily denouncing the Pasay City police (and instituting a reshuffle of its leadership) also exhibited a winner-take-all mentality that only serves to support Trinidad's allegations of a political vendetta.

What's often overlooked in past instances, at least nationally, of people power, is that while regimes teetered on the edge, the rest of the people's business went on. The unsung heroes of such past events were the government workers who manned their offices, ensuring that whatever happened at the top, the country still continued to function.

During the five-day standoff in Pasay City, Trinidad managed to turn the city into a kind of political playhouse. His opponents were just as eager to get into the act.

In Naga City, Mayor Jesse Robredo similarly faced eviction from city hall. Even though his supporters surrounded city hall, public services (except for traffic management) went on virtually unimpeded while the widely admired mayor brought his case to court and secured a temporary restraining order. Robredo showed exactly what an official in trouble needs to do first, which is demonstrate his faith in the system.

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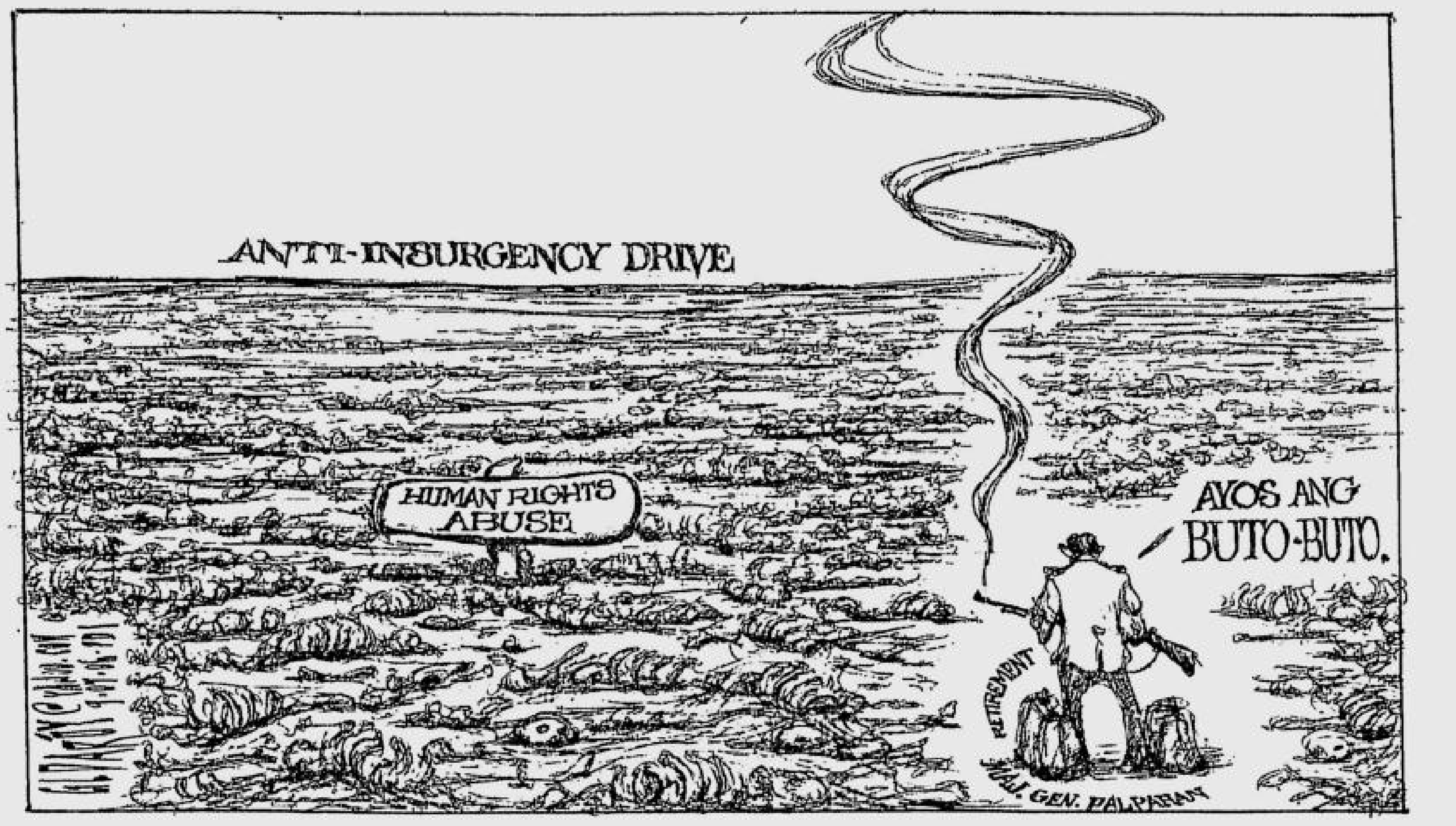


House shows why we shouldn't Cha-cha now

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE LATEST REPORT FROM GUIMARAS, which is still reeling from the Petron bunker oil spill, is that residents of coastal villages are suffering from what health workers describe as "oil-related diseases or symptoms." The diseases are asthmatic attacks, pulmonitis, gastro-intestinal problems and skin diseases.

The odor from the fumes aggravates the condition of asthmatics, and causes rhinitis in others, which is an irritation of the linings of the eyes, nose and throat. Eating fish and shellfish contaminated with the oil causes gastro-intestinal problems, while contact with the oil itself may trigger contact dermatitis, an itchy rash that deteriorates into sores when not treated promptly.

Fortunately, health workers of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development are on the spot to treat those who are stricken ill. Nevertheless, they were too late to save a little child who died last week of an asthma attack. His parents said the attack was triggered by fumes from the oil spill. Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, a doctor of medicine (and former administrator of the Philippine Heart Center) who was in Guimaras supervising relief work, told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that the fumes could really have triggered the attack on the already asthmatic boy, or it could have been coincidence. Further investigation is being made to conclusively determine the cause.

Other guests at the Kapihan were Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Virginia Ruivivar, public relations manager of Petron, and Joey Leviste of Mirant Foundation which is helping rehabilitate Guimaras.

Fernando said that although Metro Manila is very far from Guimaras, the MMDA is ready and willing to help the people there. "Just tell us what we can do to help," he said.

Ruivivar said Petron is doing everything it can to mitigate the damage of the oil spill, adding that the oil firm will stay in Guimaras "for as long as necessary" to rehabilitate the seas around Guimaras, its coastal areas and its inhabitants.

Leviste said Mirant is using its experience in reviving and expanding the mangrove forests in Pangasinan to help rehabilitate, at its own expense, the mangrove forests of Guimaras.

The DSWD and Mirant are distributing relief packets with food weekly to the residents as well as livelihood packets with piglets, chicks and vegetable seeds so that they can start backyard hog-raising, poultry production and vegetable gardens while they cannot fish in the oil-contaminated seas.

It was the DSWD that thought of hiring heads of families at P200 a day (now increased to P300) to clean the oil off the beaches and the mangrove trees. Petron is footing the bill.

Asked about the man who ran amok and attacked a barangay official after not being hired, Cabral said not all able-bodied men can be hired, and so priority in hiring was given to heads of families of affected villages. What is happening is that people from inland villages not affected by the oil spill also want to be hired and they get angry when they are turned down. Cabral said that she hopes that everybody who wants to will eventually be hired because every fisherman on the island who cannot catch fish now is also in need of livelihood. It's just that priority is being given to those most affected by the tragedy.

Asked what Petron plans to do with the sunken tanker Solar I and its deadly cargo, Ruivivar said that the Japanese salvage team is studying what is best to do: suck out the oil first, or raise the whole ship, cargo and oil. I think the easier thing to do is to suck out the oil first—which is like a ticking time bomb—and then raise the ship later when it would be lighter.

Ruivivar also said that from hereon Petron would use only double-hulled and double-bottomed tankers to ship its cargo of oil even if the worldwide deadline for such a shift is still in 2008.

To sum up, the message the panelists wanted to deliver to the public, especially the people of Guimaras, is this: "Never fear, the DSWD, Petron and Mirant are here."

* * *

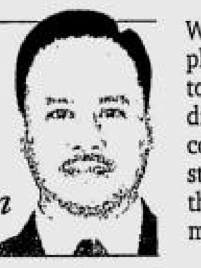
In its desperate attempts to change the Constitution and the system of government, the majority members of the House of Representatives are unwittingly showing to the people why it shouldn't be done now. Its petition for a people's initiative having been blocked by the Commission on Elections (and likely to be blocked, too, by the Supreme Court), the House shamelessly approved a resolution to convene Congress as a constituent assembly—without the participation of the Senate—and change the Constitution. Everybody knows this is unconstitutional (including congressmen, many of whom are lawyers), but they brazenly went ahead and approved an unconstitutional proposal. This is clearly an abuse of their powers.

If we change into a parliamentary system, there will be only one branch of the legislature. The parliament would be like the present House of Representatives. Its members would mostly be the present congressmen. And they have just demonstrated what they are ready and willing to do: abuse their powers to get what they want.

Without a Senate to check their abuses, the congressmen will run amok and rob us blind. Not only that, the members of the executive department, from the prime minister to the Cabinet members, will come from the same members of Parliament. There will be nobody to check them anymore. Doing away with the system of checks and balances we have now would be like giving the key to the treasury to Ali Baba and the 40 thieves.

Bewitched, bothered and bewildered

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

THE TERRIBLE THING ABOUT WRITING ON Charter change is that what we debate has little to do with what is really at stake. We debate about law, governance and the role of the courts vis-à-vis the raw power of the people, yet what is really at stake is a few people's political ambitions, plain and simple.

Malacañang has taken a leaf from fancy-schmancy literary theorists in academia who have been saying all along that the real power belongs to those who set the terms of the debate. To shape the discourse is to pre-determine who wins. Seize that power, and you have won even before the debate has begun, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has shown herself so adept at this game.

What is truly at stake is the maneuver hatched by former President Fidel V. Ramos on July 8, 2005, the Day GMA Almost Fell. FVR gave a detailed timetable for Charter change to provide a "graceful exit" for the besieged GMA and to break the political impasse. GMA, having survived, has since blown hot and cold on the issue, to FVR's chagrin. But GMA has now embraced Cha-cha fully, and the exit plan has segued into a never-ending encore. What began as a ploy for merely "staying alive" has become a strategy for overstaying in power.

Yet the beauty of Malacañang's scheme is that we get caught in a rhetorical trap. Suggest these evil portents and you are accused of being a naysayer, a contrarian, a pessimist, eternally suspicious of others' noblest intentions. And what to do to be constructive and responsible? Talk about Charter change as if the changers were truly serious about the Charter to start with.

Let us play the game. Could the Comelec have allowed the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities for a people's initiative? No, because the Constitution requires a law to implement the initiative and the Supreme Court has declared in the two 1997 Pirma cases that RA 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Act, is inadequate for the purpose. Until today, Congress has not enacted a law to fill that gap.

Did the Comelec commit "grave abuse of discretion" in throwing out the Sigaw/ULAP petition? No, because, as the Supreme Court held in the second Pirma case, the Comelec was merely being faithful to the Court's ruling on the inadequacy of RA 6735. How can fealty to a Supreme Court ruling constitute "grave abuse of discretion"?

Even assuming that the Court will reverse itself and find RA 6735 fully satisfactory, there remains one small problem: Sigaw and ULAP want fundamentally to revise our form of government, yet the Constitution makes a distinction between "amendment" and "revision." Amendments may be proposed in three ways: by the Congress directly, by a constitutional convention and by a people's initiative. Revisions may be proposed in only the first two ways. And with good reason, for a spontaneous initiative from below may at best propose "spot" changes; once it ventures into fundamental revisions, the petition will look less and less the honest initiative of the people, and more and more the disingenuous ventriloquism of politicians. It thus becomes a "politicians' initiative."

Finally, Rep. Constantino Jaraula's committee on constitutional amendments has railroaded House Resolution No. 1230 seeking to convene the whole Congress into a constituent assembly. The Constitution says that Congress may propose changes "upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members," and the House says that means three-fourths of the votes of all 232 congressmen and the 24 senators counted together, thereby drowning out the 12 or so opposition stalwarts in the Senate. Can a bicameral Congress act through only one House? When I spoke before a forum of scientists, a physicist raised a very interesting point. Senators are voted nationally, and congressmen, by district. Senators are accountable to a larger constituency; congressmen, to local constituents. To equate the vote of one senator to the vote of one congressman is to dilute the mandate carried by each of the 24 senators.

Let's drop the sober, lawyerly talk, and shift to gut issues. Do you honestly, deep in your heart, believe that "presidential v. parliamentary" is really the issue? Do you buy that cockamamie argument that Filipinos will be less poor if we call GMA prime minister instead of president? Do you really think that the problem is gridlock between the executive and Congress, and the solution is closer coordination between them? So what do you call the cozy, hand-in-glove coordination between GMA and JDV's congressional hatchetmen? And you want to institutionalize that?

Will fewer Filipino kids drop out of school and sniff rugby if we give even more power to our locally elected deputies, whether they are called congressmen or members of parliament? Hey, man, don't you watch ANC's live coverage of congressional debates? Try zapping between ANC and the National Geographic feature on lions hunting down wildebeest and feasting on the most vulnerable of the herd, or on hyenas scavenging on the leftovers. At least, their cartoon version resulted in the inspiring classic "The Lion King." With the Jaraula committee, who needs cartoons?

I have taught Constitutional Law for more than a decade and a half, and I'm happy that the public has begun to appreciate why scholars consider constitutions sacred. Fine, let us debate the Charter, spot the flaws and seek improvements, but not this way. When we reduce the Constitution into political football, we cheapen constitutional discourse itself and doom all future constitutions. Beware the price of whoring the sacred text.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Same dog, different collar

COMMENTARY

Fermin D. Adriano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT SEEMS THAT SIGAW NG BAYAN AND ITS allies have become more desperate in pushing for constitutional amendment. They are now arguing that the move will ensure more jobs for our people and more food on their table, alleviate poverty and eventually assure economic development for the country. Previous to that, the propaganda line was that the current political system resulted in gridlock, paralyzing the government and making it unable to act on important political and economic agendas. By shifting the argument from the political desirability to the economic necessity of changing the Constitution, Sigaw ng Bayan and its allies are peddling the classic "rice and fish" issue as a way of gaining the support of the general public, or more appropriately, the masses for their political design.

The same kind of argument has been used by previous administrations. There was this promise that a new era of progress would dawn on the countryside after the passage of every conceivable agrarian reform law, the latest one being the extension of the 1998 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL). The fact remains that poverty, particularly rural poverty, has hardly been alleviated, no matter what kind of statistical manipulation is being done to improve the poverty figures.

There was also the passage of the Education Reform Act, which paved for the creation of the Commission on Higher Education. The government then trumpeted that it would significantly improve the educational system in the country. The sad reality is that all education experts are in agreement that our educational system is going from bad to worse due to accumulated neglect by the government.

Corollarily, there is a provision in the Constitution that stipulates that the biggest chunk of the budget should go to education. The reality is that the biggest item in the national budget is for debt servicing.

In 1994, when we were about to sign our accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the government passed a law that was intended to allay the fears of our farmers regarding the liberalization of agricultural trading by providing for "competitive enhancement measures." To backstop this promise, the law stipulated that the budget of the Department of Agriculture would be significantly increased. This promise remains unfulfilled.

Now, we are being told by proponents of Charter change that our economy will transform overnight into a developed status once we amend the Constitution. Are we so stupid as to believe them?

In political science, there are two ways by which the legitimacy—and hence, the credibility—of a government or the state can be enhanced.

One is through the pursuit of the national interest, which necessarily includes national sovereignty. People must see and perceive that their government (as well as their leaders) is working for the interest of the country, and not that of another country. For instance, just because the United States has made counterterrorism as the cornerstone of its foreign policy, it does not mean that the Philippines should adopt it as the building block of its dealings with home-grown rebel groups. A better approach is for the government to formulate its own strategy vis-à-vis these groups, taking into consideration the long-term interests of the nation.

The second way of enhancing legitimacy is for people to think and feel that their government is seriously pursuing social justice. It is not enough that the national interest is protected, people must see that their government is improving the economic lot of the people and providing them with social services, and that laws are equally applied regardless of anyone's politico-economic status. The desired end-result is not just an economically progressive nation but a just and fair society.

Using two measures of strengthening government legitimacy (and credibility), past regimes and the present one have failed miserably. The foremost reason is that our politics does not care much about issues of legitimacy or even effective governance, as much as it cares about winning elections and preserving oneself into power. A politician's career does not suffer whether or not he/she pursues the national interest or social justice issues. Under our political system, those who pursue the parochial interests of their constituencies through a system of patronage and money will likely win the electoral contest.

Nation-building or making the country a prosperous and just one involves more than amending the Constitution. It requires a visionary leadership and unity among the people, and teamwork between leaders and those who are led in the pursuit of a common goal. This common goal is obviously not a short-term one because nation-building and a progressive country can only be attained through the passage of many years and decades.

Thus, to argue that the country will develop as a result of Charter change is a patent lie. Under our political system where personal goals and objectives dominate national interest and social justice issues, there is no way that the system can change for the better regardless of the form of government.

Unless a strong party system is developed which seeks to protect the national interest and pursue social justice, we will remain one of the economic laggards in the region. Changing the Constitution without changing the political system and the processes we have is tantamount to having the same old, tired and uninspiring dog but with a different collar.

Celebrating CEDAW and women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"EVE-OLUTION (CELEBRATING WOMEN)" IS THE intriguing title of a concert being mounted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), more popularly known as the "Women's International Bill of Rights." It "evolves" on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the UP Theater in Diliman.

The concert celebrates 25 years of women's rights and will raise funds to support women living with HIV/AIDS and survivors of violence against women, including domestic violence, rape and trafficking. Organizers say the funds raised will help pay for medical, counseling, legal and other expenses of these women and girls "whose lives and healing—in many cases—depend on their access to just a few hundreds or thousands of pesos."

The organizations behind the concert are the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the CEDAW South East Asia Program, the Joint UN Program on HIV and AIDS, CEDAW Watch Network, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, Women and Gender Institute—Miriam College, and the UP Center for Women's Studies Foundation Inc. (UCWS).

Joining hands with these organizations and the world's women and girls are women performers and bands who should bring the message of gender equality and women's rights to a new generation of feminists. They include: Akafellas, Analog, Brigada, Cambio, Color It Red, Cynthia Alexander, DJ Myke, Imago, Itchyworms, Julianne, Kadangyan, Los Indios Bravos, Makatha, ManoMano, Markus Highway, Mayonnaise, Moonstar 88, Narda, Paolo Santos, Pido, Project Fusion, Pumping Pluto, Reggae Mistress, Sandwich, sessiOnroad, Silent Sanctuary, Sitti, Skarlet, Sunflower Day Camp, Susan Fernandez, Carol Bello of Pinikpikan, Syke and The Brew.

Tickets range from P150 to P2,000 and are available at the offices of the organizers and at the gate. For ticket inquiries, call Miriam College—WAGI at 435-9299; UPCWS at 920-6950; e-mail at eveolution2006@gmail.com or visit http://eveolution2006.googlepages.com.

* * *

ALSO part of the celebration of CEDAW's 25th anniversary, which falls on Sept. 3, are a number of activities mapped out by the Unifem CEDAW Southeast Asia Program-Philippines and the CEDAW Watch Network.

One of these is a traveling knowledge fair/exhibit on the history of CEDAW and women's rights in the Philippines called "CEDAW@25: Claiming Women's Rights" to open on Sept. 15-17 at the ground floor fountain area of Robinson's Place Manila.

It is organized by the Women's Feature Service, an international news agency devoted to "seeing the world through women's eyes," in partnership with Unifem CEDAW-SEAP, Philippines. The exhibit showcases the history of CEDAW and the inroads it has made in Philippine legislation, as well as the history of feminism in the Philippines, courtesy of the Communications Foundation for Asia. Other partners include Blims Fine Furniture, which provided the seating for the reading corner featuring CEDAW knowledge products and other publications.

Similar exhibits are scheduled for Sept. 23-24 at the NCCC Mall in Davao City, in partnership with the Integrated Gender and Development Division of the Davao City mayor's office and the NCCC Mall. The Davao exhibit will also be highlighted by the launching of the mall's breast-feeding center, the first in Davao. On Sept. 29-Oct. 1, the CEDAW Knowledge Fair/Exhibit moves to the Ayala Center in Cebu City, in partnership with the DSWD and Lihok Pilipina.

The Philippines signed and ratified CEDAW in 1981. As one of the 184 states parties, the Philippines is legally bound to repeal all discriminatory laws or enact new laws to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights. CEDAW comprehensively addresses women's human rights not only within civil and political spheres, but also within economic, social, cultural and family life.

* * *

IT is interesting to note that CEDAW is the result of the initiatives of Filipino women who represented the Philippines at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Helena Z. Benitez, who was the CSW chair then, succeeded in having the "Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" adopted by the General Assembly during her term in 1967; and in 1975, Leticia Ramos-Shahani, then a high-ranking UN official, prepared the working draft of the CEDAW based on the Declaration as a member of the CSW working group. The current chair of the UN CEDAW Committee, tasked to monitor governments' compliance to the treaty, is former Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo, another Filipina.

Also as part of the CEDAW anniversary observance, Pilipina, a national women's organization, has been holding Round Table Discussions (RTDs)on the proposed Magna Carta for Women, which will serve as an enabling law of the CEDAW. Among the RTDs planned is one in Bacolod today, from 1-5 p.m., at the Governor's Conference Room; and on Sept. 15, 1-5 p.m., at the Executive Training Center, University of Cordilleras, Baguio Colleges Foundation.

On Sept. 27, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women will hold a feedback forum at Innotech on Commonwealth Avenue in Quzon City on the concluding comments of the CEDAW Committee on the Philippine report given last Aug. 15 at the UN in New York.

Parts of the committee's comments were previously discussed in this space, with the comments of Clara Rita Padilla, a lawyer who presented a collaborative "Shadow Report" before at the CEDAW-NGO dialogue. The feedback forum should give us a more rounded picture.

Teachers and students

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, TEACHERS DO not make students. It is the other way round: Students make teachers. We cannot be teachers if there were no students, so in my remarks delivered last Friday in Metrobank Plaza I concluded:

"Students keep us teaching despite the long hours, the meager pay, add-on tasks and intrigue that come from constipated academics. And I am not just talking here of imparting the lesson, but actually building a bridge where the students also teach the teacher. I often tell my students that they teach me more than I teach them—they teach us about their world, their concerns, their hopes and aspirations.

"While others see a generation gap, teachers embark on building a bridge over it. That, I think, is what keeps teachers young at heart. For example, while showing slides in class about Jose Rizal, I flashed a picture of Leonor Rivera, eliciting giggles from the back of the room. I asked why and explained that the picture was drawn by Rizal himself. One student stood up and declared, 'That's not Leonor Rivera, that's Michael Jackson after cosmetic surgery!'

"I looked at the fading slides I had been using for the past 20 years and for the first time saw other images, other ways of seeing the same picture. That day, yet another bridge over the generation gap was built.

"Allow me to end, with one more example of a eureka moment, a way of seeing that I got from my students. When I was a boy I was taught that Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Philippines. I even thought that the villains in the story were the half-naked savages led by Lapu-lapu who killed the first tourist to our shores. To me, the white-skinned Magellan coming to the yet unnamed archipelago carrying Christianity and civilization was the martyr. Lapu-lapu was the barbarian.

"As I grew older, I was introduced to Gregorio Zaide who maintained that we should see history from our distinctly Philippine viewpoint. Hence, Magellan did not discover the Philippines, he merely 'rediscovered' it, for how can he discover a place that already had people in it?

"Then I met the late Teodoro Agoncillo who maintained that Zaide was peddling baloney. When I explained that this was in line with his own views on nationalist history, he snapped: '*Gago ka rin pala e!* Do you know what you are saying? Did the Philippines disappear under the sea and come up again for Magellan to rediscover it? How can you rediscover what is not lost?' We left things at that.

"It has been two decades since Agoncillo passed away, I have become a historian of sorts and now threaten to write my own version of Philippine history. When I write my history, I will not say that Magellan discovered the Philippines—that is the Spanish viewpoint. I will not say Magellan rediscovered the Philippines, for that is the rabid nationalist Filipino viewpoint. All I will say is that Magellan arrived in the Philippines in 1521. The dates, names and facts have not changed, but one can readily see how the change of one simple word—from 'discovered,' to 'rediscovered' to 'arrived'—changes the whole way in which we see ourselves in relation to our past, our present and our future.

"Surely, there are similar examples of the same paradigm shifts in the other disciplines, and these usually reveal themselves in an interaction between teacher and student, young and old, past and present. This is both the value and magic of teaching and if we have made a difference in the minds and lives of our students then all of our efforts have not been in vain. They deserve this award as much as we do, and it is to them that we dedicate our awards tonight, as well as the rest of our lives toiling in a classroom, throwing seeds and hoping that all will grow and bear fruit."

Since I thanked parents and students in my speech, I was tempted to use "Parental Wisdom-Filipino Style," forwarded to me by Tina Cuyugan, but since there were foreigners attending the awards night, I decided to just share with the readers some items.

(1) *Si Inay, tinuruan ako* HOW TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "*Kung kayong dalawa ay magpapatayan, doon kayo sa labas! Mga leche kayo, kalilinis ko lang ng bahay.*"

(2) *Natuto ako ng* RELIGION *kay Itay*: "*Kapag yang mantsa di natanggal sa carpet, magdasal ka na!*"

(3) *Kay Inay ako natuto ng* LOGIC: "*Kaya ganyan, dahil sinabi ko.*"

(4) *At kay Inay ako natuto ng* MORE LOGIC: "*Pag ikaw nalaglag diyan sa bubong, ako lang mag-isa manonood ng sine.*"

(5) *Si Inay ang nagturo sa akin ng* IRONY: "*Sige ngumalngal ka pa at bibigyan talaga kita ng iiyakan mo!*"

(6) *Si Inay ang nagpaliwanag ng* CONTORTIONISM: "*Tingnan mo nga yang dumi sa likod ng leeg mo, tingnan mo!!!*"

(7) *Si Itay nagpaliwanag ng* STAMINA: "*Wag kang tatayo diyan hangga't di mo nauubos lahat ng pagkain mo!*"

(8) *Si Inay ang nagturo sa amin ng* WEATHER: "*Lintek talaga kayo. Ano ba itong kuwarto nyo, parang dinaanan ng bagyo!*"

(9) *Si Itay nagturo ng* BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "*Tumigil ka nga diyan! Huwag kang umarte na parang Nanay mo!*"

(10) *Si Inay nagturo ng* GENETICS: "*Nagmana ka nga talaga sa ama mong walanghiya!*"

(11) *Si Inay ang nagpaliwanag sa amin ng* ENVY: "*Maraming mga batang ulila sa magulang. Di ba kayo nagpapasalamat at mayroon kayong magulang na tulad namin?*"

(12) *Si Itay nagturo ng* ANTICIPATION: "*Sige kang bata ka, hintayin mong makarating tayo sa bahay!*"

A good life

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THERE HAVE BEEN NO EASY ANSWERS TO THE CONTROversy around the leakage of questions in the recent nursing licensing examinations. Wouldn't a retake be better for all of the batch 2006 examinees, to remove the cloud of doubt around their competence? But wouldn't a retake mean more expenses, some families selling, literally, the last carabao? And after all's said and done, who should be punished for the leakage?

My sense is that we're having difficulties with these ethical issues because "ethics" is complicated. Moreover, ethics hasn't quite made it into our consciousness, at least not in a formal sense. Like when I tell people I don't eat meat as an "ethical" choice, I get confused looks. People think it has to be reasons of "health" or "religion" rather than, quite simply, "doing something that's the right thing to do."

Slowly though, we're bound to see more discussions of ethics. At the University of the Philippines, the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy has a joint bioethics program with the College of Medicine, with the bulk of students coming from the medical profession. These health professionals train in bioethics so they can help their institutions to confront ethical questions around medical research and clinical care. The bioethical issues can be quite complicated, spanning an entire lifetime from the "beginning" (is a fertilized ovum a human being?) to the "end" (when is a person dead?).

'Bawal'

I've been handling one of the courses—Culture and Ethics—in the bioethics program and while the bulk of the class discussions deals with medical issues, we inevitably go into more personal issues. Each class I've been impressed with the way the students (physicians, dentists, anthropologists, psychologists) think the issues through, often expressing personal anxieties and turbulence.

Teaching the course has made me realize the importance of making ethics more relevant to our daily lives. We don't have a word for "ethics" in Philippine languages, but it doesn't mean we don't have a sense of right or wrong. We do, but the problem is that our notions of right or wrong are hemmed in, trapped in rigid and moralistic definitions that revolve around *bawal*: The forbidden, the sinful.

We've relied too much on religious doctrines and precepts for the answers, passed on to us by priests and other persons of authority. I remember that back in grade school and high school, we had to go to confession each week, and had a printed guide for our "examination of conscience," with a long list of sins conveniently classified as venial and mortal, the latter in bold print.

To some extent, basic religious precepts, such as "Don't do unto others what you don't want them to do unto you" (found, incidentally, in all the major religions), are still good guides, but life has become much more complicated in the 21st century and we now need to deal with more substantive issues. For example, even in high school, I used to wonder why missing Mass on Sundays was considered so serious—a mortal sin—for which, one of my religion teachers claimed, one could go straight to hell.

Fortunately, I eventually found the more exciting, and kinder, world of ethics, one which emphasizes what we should and can do to create a "better" world. Ethicists have come up with much more complicated criteria for dealing with moral issues, the questions guided by principles like autonomy (Are we violating an individual's right to choose?). "Doing good" and "avoiding harm" take on new meanings: Whose good is served here and what do we do, as in the nursing examinations, when there is a conflict between individual "good" and that of the community? What harm comes about without a retake, for the nursing students as well as the nursing profession?

Ethical audit

The British newspaper The Guardian regularly carries a column called "The Good Life," which poses common ethical dilemmas people face, and then presents an "ethical audit" consisting of opinions of experts from particular fields. The columns have been so popular that the writer, Leo Hickman, has compiled several of his articles into a book.

Hickman's ethical audits often deal with issues of personal food choices. A vegetarian diet is still considered the most ethical because it doesn't cause any suffering to animals. For those who do choose to eat meat, chickens are a bit more ethical than beef because to get beef, you need to use large tracts of agricultural land for the cows. (But, I've argued, chickens raised in cages suffer more than cows grazing on a range.)

Mind you, even a vegetarian diet has its ethical challenges as well. When choosing vegetables for example, buying those that come in from overseas means you're neglecting local farmers. And the further the source of the produce, the more you're contributing to polluting the environment because of the transport.

Hickman's columns are just so packed with ethical concerns. Once he wrote about how proud he was purchasing Quaker Oats, healthy non-meat food, until one of his consultants pointed out that Quaker Oats is owned by Pepsi Cola, which doesn't exactly have the cleanest record in corporate ethics.

Governance, groceries

Does this all sound like academic nitpicking? Nope. I think ethics is quite practical in the way it makes us think more broadly, of the greater good, of the future, at all levels, from a nation's governance, down to our groceries.

All too often, we've allowed little "lapses of judgment" to pass in the name of convenience, or even of the "greater good." I'm sure that the people who cheated in the nursing exams were rationalizing: "I'm doing this so I can migrate and provide a better life for my family."

The little "lapses of judgment" of individuals add up, until entire communities, maybe even nations, lose their moral compass. I see it even in the university, where impunity is tolerated, even rewarded, all in the name of preserving institutional harmony. Should it be surprising that we let the President get away with her lapses, thinking, anyway, all this is for the good of the country? Hey, look the peso's so strong; hey, look so many Filipinos now have jobs (albeit in war-torn areas and in call centers). Be patient, the good life's just around the corner.

Ethicists don't go around saying "That's wrong" or "That's a sin." Ethicists are there to remind people that we need to perform quick audits in our daily lives, whether using the Rotary Club's "4-way test" or the fancier stuff discussed in ethics courses.

I love the name chosen for Leo Hickman's column because of the way it captures the whole essence of ethics, underscoring how the good life must come by leading a good life.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Media 'breached' airport security

WHO BREACHED THE SECURITY at the airport?

An expert smuggled bomb components into an aircraft to test the effectivity and efficiency of our airport security system. His "feat" brought to light the glaring defects in our security arrangements. It placed in doubt the effectivity of the security checks being conducted in all our airports, seaports and land transportation facilities. The breach, reported by the media, alarmed the nation and the uproar it whipped up reverberated all over the world.

But who breached security? Who is to blame? Not the "breacher." Not the security personnel at the airports. It was the publicity of the breach that alarmed the nation's security.

An executive session could have been conducted quietly to discuss the result of the test and undertake measures to correct the security deficiencies. Print media could have been invited to participate in the session but with the caveat that they should not publish whatever was discussed in the meeting.

—FORTUNATO ABAT
major general (ret.),
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

GSIS eCard to benefit instead of inconvenience pensioners

CHANGE IS USUALLY NOT A welcome path. But since change is the only way that leads to genuine improvement, we must never dismiss this option outright.

We understand the sense of fear that Honesto C. General expressed about the eCard which the Government Service Insurance System is issuing to its pensioners. He said the pensioners may not get accustomed to using the eCard's ATM feature because they have gotten so familiar with passbooks. (PDI, 8/14/06)

But we implore General to look at the bigger picture. For one, the GSIS eCard provides pensioners with an automatic bank account. The account requires no maintaining balance, protecting pensioners from penalty charges in case they need to take all their money. They can also use the eCard to withdraw cash from any of the 6,000 Megalink, Bancnet and Expressnet ATM networks all over the country. They can even withdraw money abroad, through the ATMs under the Plus Network.

The eCard likewise functions as a Visa electronic debit card, so that pensioners need not risk carrying cash whenever they take their grandchildren to malls. Come January 2007, GSIS pensioners need not queue up for their checks because the GSIS will credit their pensions through their eCards.

General should not worry that the GSIS is only using Unionbank to dispense the proceeds of claims and benefits; the GSIS still maintains accounts in other banks, such as the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Let's give people, especially the pensioners, a little credit. The eCard may be a product of technology, but it is not something that senior citizens cannot learn to love and use.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Isn't PCG also to blame for oil spill?

THE INVESTIGATION ON THE sinking of MT Solar I should look into the liability, if any, of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and other maritime bodies. As far as I know, before any vessel may sail, a voyage permit is required from the PCG.

This permit is given only after the PCG has boarded the vessel to assess its seaworthiness and made sure that the crew and passenger manifests are in order. With our record of frequent ship-sinking—which includes overloaded passenger-ferry boats, it is very important to identify the responsible, negligent agencies and officials.

One more practice that should be stopped is the issuance of Conditional Certificates of Inspection that allow vessels to sail even if their dry-docking is due.

—PHILIP YAMBAO,
phil_yambao@yahoo.com

A comforting voice from Lebanon

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY Lynett A. Villariba's story, "This priest wants to be the last Filipino out of Beirut" (PDI, 8/6/06), which was about Fr. Agustin "Gestie" Advincula's humanitarian efforts to accommodate hundreds of overseas Filipino workers who wanted to leave war-torn Lebanon. His bravery, "strength and courage," which he manifested when he defied the dangers of the war, could qualify him as "a living hero."

Father Advincula, a Catholic missionary priest, called on the government to hasten the evacuation of Filipinos trapped in the war zone. His was a soothing voice assuring mothers, spouses and children of our modern-day heroes suddenly caught in a web of uncertainty, anxiety and confusion. If a Catholic priest could do all these things, why not the ministers of the other religious sects with international presence? After all, they are also as rich as the Catholic Church—perhaps, much richer from the tithing they impose on their faithful.

In a time of crisis, when human lives are to be saved, they can do much better. But despite urgent calls from Malacañang for assistance, they did not do anything.

—TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

What damage is done by emigrating?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

IN HER LETTER TITLED "PAREDES' 'Australian vacation' one and the same banana" published Sept. 2, Doris Nuval wrote, "The damage they [i.e., migrant Filipinos] have wrought to our country by living and working abroad cannot ever be quantified; and the most depressing thing about it is that their number swells by the day." She further asserted, "Add [Jim] Paredes to that list and those he has encouraged to follow suit."

Nuval did not elaborate what precisely this damage is and why she thought this was caused by Filipinos living and working abroad. While we are left to figure this out, a few things about what's happening in the world around us need to be understood.

We live in a time when humanity is driven by millions of individual decisions that allow people to overcome barriers previously set up and maintained by elites. Greater access to and movement of information and financial assets globally have spawned higher personal aspirations and capabilities, which in turn have made collective groupings, such as nations and societies as we used to know them, less important in determining each person's standing in life. Given this shift toward individualism, what damage could result from people who do what they sincerely think is good for themselves and for those who directly depend on them?

With that in mind, the fact that Paredes migrated would have no bearing on other people's decisions to migrate. Filipinos who have moved and continue to move abroad, including the talented ones that Nuval referred to, have enough information about their own circumstances to know what they want for themselves and what they are getting into. Paredes will not be able to encourage them to follow his example like a flock of sheep, in the same way that somebody else cannot encourage them to stay in the Philippines if they know that their aspirations can be achieved best by moving elsewhere.

Individual empowerment is a global trend and its effects can be observed in different ways from the decisions of developing-country citizens to migrate for greener pastures to the same individualistic decisions of corporate shareholders in rich countries to offshore certain kinds of jobs in order to make themselves richer. Once we face this reality, we wouldn't have to worry about what other people do for their own good.—**Arturo Reyes, New York (via e-mail)**

* * *

The nursing board examinees that took the June 2006 board exams should repeat the exams because their case sets a precedent. If there will be more scams in the future, the culprits would point to the 2006 exams and the 2006 examinees, and there will be a vicious cycle of cheating.

Not only review centers are guilty of leaking exam questions. A famous university with an in-house review center has been benefiting from leakages for the longest time. This cheating must end.—**Nica Castillo, Sta. Ana, Manila (via e-mail)**

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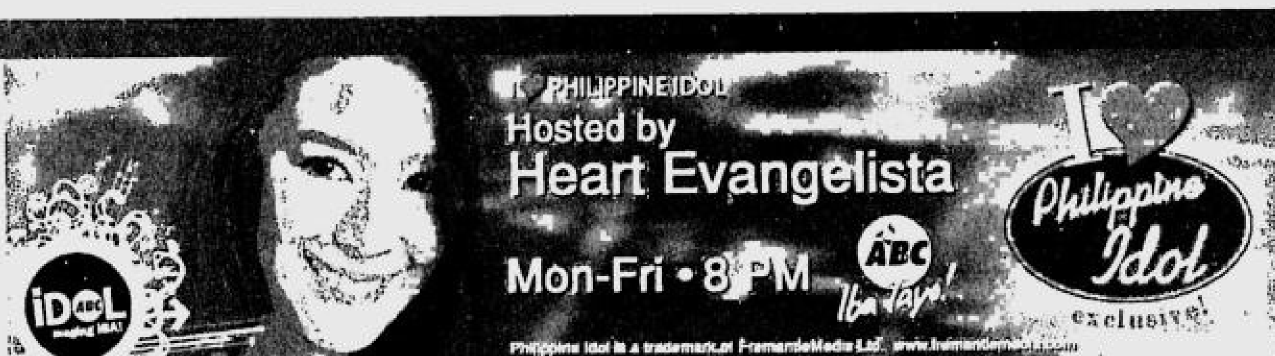
INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, September 8, 2006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Channel	2:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	[illegible]	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Cole Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Global Shockers		Raw Stories		Big News	TNA	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		The Assignment					Ultimate Guinness World Records	Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The One Year				13 Ghosts	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends/ Max Steel	Robotboy	Sayonara Samurai Jack/ Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon/ Pokemon Johto Journey	Dual Justifiers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinemax		Arabesque (3:15 PM)				The Kiss (4:55 PM)			Fast Getaway			The Specialist			House Of Secrets (9:45 PM)			Private Parts (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		The Grid		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Criminal Intent		Prison Break	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				NFL's Greatest Moments		Pro Billiards '06 Enjoypool.com Women's Open 9-ball C'Ships		Women's Pro Billiards '06 WPBA Midwest Classic		Weetabix Women's British Open Day4				Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen [De-generes] Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F. B. Eye		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Midsomer Murders, Who Killed Cock Robin				Regenesis	
HBO	White Chicks			The Brooke Ellison Story			Kart Racer (5:45 PM)			Sahara (7:15 PM)				Star Trek First Contact				Backdraft (10:50PM)	
Hero TV	Raijin-Oh	Combattler V	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B'Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Raijin-Oh	Combattler V	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arts		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arts	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweat	X-Play	Heat		Mad TV		That '70s Show	Everybody Hate Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own	VMA 2006: Defining Moments	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	VMA 2006: Defining Moments	MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Handpicked Up Dharma Down	VH1's 50 Greatest Funny Moments In Music	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Earthquake		The Ultimate Crocodile		Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	WOW! Hornets: A Sting in the Tale		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tsunami		Mega Dams: Itaipu Dam	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Dyos Ka, Mahal Mo Ba Siya	Teledyaryo W/ [illegible] & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyog		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	ChalkZone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible]	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Danny Phantom/ The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Takas Sa Impiyerno				Ang Tipo Kong Babae				Paano Tatakasan ang Bukas				Mega Concert: Cuneta Sa Cuneta				Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya
Qtv	Love Revolution	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports										Sagupaan	GWS 34-2006	2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: Finals				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's-Canada	
Sports Plus		U.S. Open '06 Q-final								Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	BM Transport Show	BD Catalina	Wild Side Las Vegas	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	U.S. Open '06 Day 12 Men's Dbls Final/Women's S'final	
Star Movies			Baby Geniuses (3:45 PM)				Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen			Chariots Of Fire (6:55 PM)				Hide And Seek			Out Of Time (10:45PM)		
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Ngiiniig	Ghost Whisperer (8:15 PM)		Living With Fran (9:15PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Closer (10:45PM)		MYXilog

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Army pushes offensive vs Abu Sayyaf

MARINE Pfc. Nialla recounting his ordeal with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu at a hospital in Zamboanga City. Nialla lost a friend, Pfc. Harold Almodobar, in the fighting.
JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—TWO SOLDIERS BELONGING to the US-trained Light Reaction Company (LRC) and eight Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in the continuing military offensive against the terror group in Sulu, the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Sealana, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said three soldiers were injured.

"Only three Abu Sayyaf cadavers (sic) had been recovered so far but there was a report that five other cadavers were left in a nearby community before the bandits fled to the inner part of Mount Tukay," Sealana said.

Sealana said the LRC unit started pushing deeper into the Karawan complex near Parang town on Wednesday morning.

"When they reached the southern portion of the Karawan complex, they stumbled on a larger group of Abu Sayyaf bandits under Albader Parad and Doc Abu, who were having lunch," he said.

Sealana said the skirmishes went on until 4 a.m. yesterday.

Sealana said the LRC also recovered 15 backpacks "loaded with medicines, ammunition, clothing and other personal items."

The military has been pushing hard against the Abu Sayyaf that was said to be keeping Indonesian terror suspects Dulmatin, Omar Patek and Jandala.

The three foreigners were tagged in the 2000 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 foreigners, mostly Australians.

Since Aug. 1, dozens of clashes have occurred between soldiers and the bandits under Oplan Ultimatum, but no ranking Abu Sayyaf leader, or any of the Indonesians, had been captured.

As of yesterday, the military already lost more than a dozen soldiers.

On Monday, six Marines were also killed while 20 other were wounded.

The slain Marines were to be honored as heroes during ceremonies on Tuesday but a glitch in the death certificates prompted a mortuary company to hold the release of their bodies.

The embalmed bodies of the Marine soldiers were kept in transparent plastics and sealed off in coffins fashioned out of plywood.

A lone Marine was posted in the funeral parlor.

After the problem was solved, the ceremonies pushed through.

Twenty-one other Marines wounded during the battle of Patikul on Monday were also cited as heroes during simple ceremonies at the Westmincom headquarters.

Col. Joel Ybañez, Westmincom chief of staff, said the six coffins were escorted by uniformed Marines to the chapel inside the Philippine Navy camp at Majini's Pier.

Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Marine commander, said after the ceremonies, the bodies of the slain soldiers would be flown to their families.

"It is our tradition in the Marines that slain soldiers would be escorted back to their families," Allaga said.

Allaga said the Marines would continue with the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf group involved in Monday's encounter in Patikul.

"They should be finished, neutralized. We cannot afford to allow them free mobility, to reunite, regroup and create more violent attacks," Allaga told his troops during a gathering in Sulu.

Allaga also praised the brave Marines that stood their ground on Monday.

"Unfortunately, our boys were outnumbered but they maintained their defense position until reinforcement arrived," he told the INQUIRER.

Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade in Sulu, said the Marines also inflicted heavy casualties on the Abu Sayyaf during Monday's clash.

He said wounded soldiers reported to him that more than 20 Abu Sayyaf gunmen died on the spot when soldiers lobbed grenades at the bandits. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Sulu death breaks 2 Marines' bonding

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ON SUNday evening, Marine Pfc. Arnold Nialla and Pfc. Harold Almodobar held each other tight.

Then the close friends gave each other a pat on the shoulders before retiring to bed. They knew that the following day, a Monday, would be a very long day for them and the entire Philippine Marines Force Recon Company Class No. 12 (FRCC12).

The group of soldiers had just graduated from a recon course in Ternate, Cavite and their posting in Patikul, Sulu under Oplan Ultimatum, was part of their test mission.

It was in Ternate that the two soldiers developed closeness. For six months, they ate together and endured the rigors of training.

Nialla said he even asked Almodobar to stand as godfather to his 7-month-old son Justin Gabriel, who would be christened in December.

The following day, Sept. 5, Almodobar teased Nialla as they were jumping off for Barangay Tanum.

"When we return, you better treat me for your son's baptism," Nialla recalled Almodobar as saying.

The 27-man FRCC12 team was to serve as blocking force for other soldiers pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul.

When they arrived in Tanum, Nialla, the two and the rest of the FRCC12 crawled into position.

"We were about to clear the area when we surprisingly hit a large group, which we believed was the main Abu Sayyaf group. We didn't expect to hit the main target," he said of the dozens of bandits they crossed paths with.

As bullets rained on them, the outnumbered members of the FRCC12 team tried hard to defend their position, according to Nialla.

"We all tried to look for cover, for foliage, a tree or tried to dig deeper to the ground so that we will not be hit," he said.

Nialla said they lobbed grenades but the firing continued.

"So we kept on firing. It was very deafening and smoke was everywhere," he said.

Nialla said he saw at least 10 bandits fall to the ground.

He said he glanced at where Almodobar was located to make sure he was all right.

Nialla said he was relieved when he saw Almodobar alive.

"He even signaled me to take cover while he was moving back to look for cover too," he said.

Nialla said he later realized that what Almodobar was trying to say was that he was already injured.

"I found out I have a wound in the head but I didn't know what caused it then," he said.

At this time, Nialla said explosions from grenade launchers fired by the Abu Sayyaf bandits were everywhere.

Nialla said he shot a hooded man who was trying to approach him.

"This time, I felt another pain in my head. I was hit for the second time around. That was the last thing I remember. I passed out," he said.

When he woke up while being treated, Nialla said he learned that Almodobar did not survive.

Four other Marines died on the spot while another died while being treated.

Twenty others, including Nialla, were wounded.

"I lost a good friend while my son lost a godfather," he said.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command deputy chief, said members of the FRCC12 "underwent very rigorous training."

But he said that as far as soldiery is concerned, they "are (still) students." *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ombudsman files graft raps vs Samar gov

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY filed graft charges against Western Samar Gov. Milagrosa Tee Tan and six other provincial officials for the alleged anomalous purchase of more than P16 million worth of medicines and other goods from December 2001 until December 2002.

Tan and her alleged conspirators in the provincial government were also found guilty by the Ombudsman of grave misconduct, dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service and were meted the penalty of dismissal from service.

The Ombudsman, however, spared the governor from dismissal since she was reelected to another term in 2004.

"The acts attributed to her happened in 2001. She got reelected in 2004. We have a doctrine that says reelection of the one charged wipes out the administrative liability," said Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni. "It's unfortunate."

Ordered dismissed were provincial treasurer Damiano Zerda Conde Jr., budget officer Maximo Darunday Sison, administrative officer Rolando Bolastig Montejo, general services officer Aurelio Bardaje Jr., general services records inspector Numeriano Legaspi, and accountant Romeo Chan Reales.

In a 36-page decision, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez found probable cause in the complaint filed against Tan and the provincial officials in connection with the purchase of medicines and other goods worth P16.1 million.

The transactions were found to have been made without public bidding.

Jalandoni said the Ombudsman filed the graft charges against Tan and the officials yesterday at the Sandiganbayan.

Tan and the officials were sued by the Isog Han Samar Movement based in Catbalogan represented by Fr. Noel Labendia of the Diocese of Calbayog, Samar.

The Commission on Audit investigated the transactions from Jan. 1, 2001 to April 2003.

Records said among the transactions audited were the purchase of medicines worth P3.9 million, assorted goods and rice worth P10.6 million, and electric fans worth P1.6 million.

The transactions ran up to a total of P16.1 million.

The respondents, the Ombudsman said, used a calamity brought by typhoon "Kidang" on Dec. 4 to Dec. 5, 2001 to justify the theft of taxpayers' money.

A resolution issued by the provincial board to authorize the release of the money showed that the funds were for another typhoon.

Medicines were bought two months before typhoon Kidang.

The mayor of Tarangnan town requested for medicines a day before Kidang came.

Rice and goods purchased for the typhoon were made at the Wilmart's Mini Mart seven days after the typhoon. The store was 107 km from Samar.

Agriculturists start assessing Mayon damage to crops as volcano cools down

RESIDENTS of Upper Buang, part of the 6-kilometer danger zone, find temporary homes at the Mayon Elementary School.
NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

LEGAZPI CITY—AGRICULTURists have estimated the damage wrought by the slow eruption of Mayon volcano at P1.1 million.

"Our damage assessment is still ongoing. There are agricultural areas we are still not able to visit because of the risks caused by the eruption," according to provincial agriculturist Archimedes Reynoso.

Damages to crops in Sto. Domingo, Albay have reached P275,000 and in Malilipot, Albay, at least P859,000 in crops were reported destroyed by the municipal disaster coordinating council.

The towns of Malilipot and Sto. Domingo are within the southeast sector of the volcano, which is the most critical since the crater rim is lowest in this sector.

Reynoso said ash falls and lava flow did the most damage.

"Small quantities of ash can be good for the plants as it drives insects and pests away. The sulfur in the ash can also be a good source of micro-nutrients but when it covers the plants in excessive quantities it destroys them," Reynoso said.

The soil at the foot of Mt. Mayon is believed to be fertile as micro-nutrients from organic materials from the volcano, when washed away by rainfall, are spread to the ground.

Volcanologists at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology observatory at the Lignon Hill in Daraga, Albay yesterday said Mayon was cooling down.

There were 10 volcanic earthquakes recorded while alert level 4 remains raised.

Farming is the most common form of livelihood among affected villagers, most of them still in evacuation centers.

Agricultural areas surrounding Mt. Mayon are planted to root crops, vegetables and fruits but mostly to abaca and coconut.

In the five municipalities and three cities affected by the eruption, around 924 hectares of land are planted to rice; around 700 ha are planted to fruits, vegetable, and root crops; while 2,525 ha are planted to coconut and abaca. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cop kills cop at Batangas drinking party

BATANGAS CITY—A 43-YEAR-old policeman was shot dead by his drunken colleague during a heated argument while they were on a liquor drinking party inside a police camp here on Wednesday night, police said Thursday.

Senior Supt. Edmund Zaide, Batangas police director, identified the victim as SPO2 Numeriano Borbon, assigned at the logistics branch of the Batangas Provincial Police Office.

Zaide said the victim died from several gunshot wounds in the body while being rushed to the Batangas Regional Hospital.

The shooting happened at around 9:45 p.m. while Borbon and the suspect, SPO3 Nicolas Closa, member of the intelligence unit of the Batangas police, were at a drinking party at the residence of the victim in EMS Barrio inside Camp General Miguel Malvar in Barangay Kumintang Ilaya here.

The camp is the provincial headquarters of the Batangas police.

Zaide said that during the drinking session, the two had a verbal tussle over the suspect's plan to turn over the leadership of their neighborhood organization to the victim.

"Closa was the outgoing president of the association in their neighborhood. He wanted Borbon to succeed him but the victim refused. After that, they had an argument," Zaide said.

At the height of their squabble, Closa pulled out his .45-cal. pistol and shot the victim repeatedly.

Policemen who rushed to the scene were unable to arrest the suspect who fled in his jeep and is now the subject of a manhunt operation.

Zaide said he had ordered a thorough investigation of the shooting.

Reports said a police official, a certain Insp. Melencio Gamboa, and civilian Joselito Gonzales were with the victim when the shooting happened. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Vizcaya mayors withdraw support for STL amid bribe rap

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Stung by allegations that they took bribes in exchange for endorsing small town lottery (STL), at least nine mayors from the province's 15 towns have withdrawn their endorsement of the lottery.

In a resolution on Sept. 4, the mayors lamented and denied allegations that they received "grease money" after endorsing the government-sanctioned STL.

"In order to cleanse their respective names in the alleged bribery, the undersigned [mayors] recall their consent to the operation of the STL in their respective territorial jurisdictions," the resolution said.

The STL is being considered as a substitute to the illegal numbers game "jueteng," which continued to flourish in many towns of the province.

The mayors said they were withdrawing their endorsement of STL, which was contained in a resolution passed by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) here in February, after charges circulated through text messages that the mayors had received P50,000 each to allow STL in their areas.

"The charges (that the mayors were bribed) are unfair. So it would just be better if STL would not be allowed to dismiss suspicion that we benefited from it," Mayor Marvic Padilla of Diadi town said. Padilla was one of the mayors who signed the resolution endorsing the STL.

The mayors' move came on the heels of an official's exposé that provincial board members had either been offered or received P30,000 each in exchange for approving the bid of a gaming franchisee to collect bets for STL in the province.

Amid the controversy, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, by a vote of 7-2 with four abstentions, approved a resolution on Aug. 23 allowing the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to start STL operations in Nueva Vizcaya.

But in a Sept. 4 resolution, the mayors urged the PCSO, the government agency that will oversee STL activities, to desist from pushing through with its lottery in their towns as, they said, they would not issue the required business license and mayor's permit.

Should the PCSO insist, its STL agents would be arrested, the officials said.

Among those who signed the resolution of withdrawal included the mayors of Solano, Bayombong and Bagabag, the province's biggest towns, from which operators expect to generate the bulk of their STL collections.

Mayor Pepito Balgos, LMP president here, said that while he respected the decision of the mayors, he would not retract his endorsement of STL in his town.

"The public should not believe all these baseless allegations (of bribery) because these are never true. My conscience is clear," he said.

"I still believe STL is better than jueteng because it is legal. We have long been burdened by the stigma of tolerating illegal gambling in exchange for jueteng payola," he said. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DENR seeks proper way of cleaning up oil mess

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

DEATH is painted in black in this mangrove area in Nueva Valencia town.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

ILOILO CITY—THE regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources sounded the alarm for the proper treatment of oil-smeared mangroves after "an unidentified clean-up force" was seen cutting the roots and branches of the trees in two villages of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

Cutting their roots and branches "is harmful to the mangrove trees because it will open (these) to further infection and will affect salt balance that will ultimately cause the death of mangroves," said Julian D. Amador, environment regional executive director.

Amador, in a statement, quoted the DENR mangrove survey team that reported an unidentified clean-up force cutting the prop roots of several mangrove species in Barangays Lucmayan and Cabalagnan this week in worst-hit Nueva Valencia.

Petron Corp., which contracted the MT Solar I that was carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil when it sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11, has hired more than 1,000 residents who are paid P300 a day for clean-up operations.

The prop roots contain lenticels, which are the breathing organs of the Bakauan (*Rhizophora*) species.

The pneumatrophores—cylindrical root-like protrusions on the ground that are the breathing organs of the Avicennia species such as *bungalon* (*Avicennia marina*), *api-api* (*Avicennia officinales*) and the *piapi* (Avicennia lanata)—were also cut, said the DENR.

"Mangrove branches covered with oil were also cut," it said.

Mangroves protect sea grass beds and coral reefs from sedimentation and the intricate prop roots of the bakauan and the pneumatrophores of the *bungalon* and *pagatpat* help retard sedimentation that can suffocate sea grass and corals, said Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia or Pemsea.

"Fish use the spaces under the mass of prop roots of mangrove trees as 'delivery rooms,' and the offspring of many marine species spend their growing period in the mangrove swamps before moving on to the open," said the Laguna-based Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD).

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council said bunker fuel oil from the Solar I had destroyed or heavily damaged the environment and marine life, including sea grass (12 hectares), corals (30 ha), coastline (220 km), coral reef (15.8 sq km), mangroves (431.5 ha), seaweeds (58 ha) and fishponds (823.5 ha).

Amador appealed to the Guimaras provincial government, the Philippine Coast Guard, and Petron to assist the DENR in disseminating information in the clean-up operations in the mangrove areas.

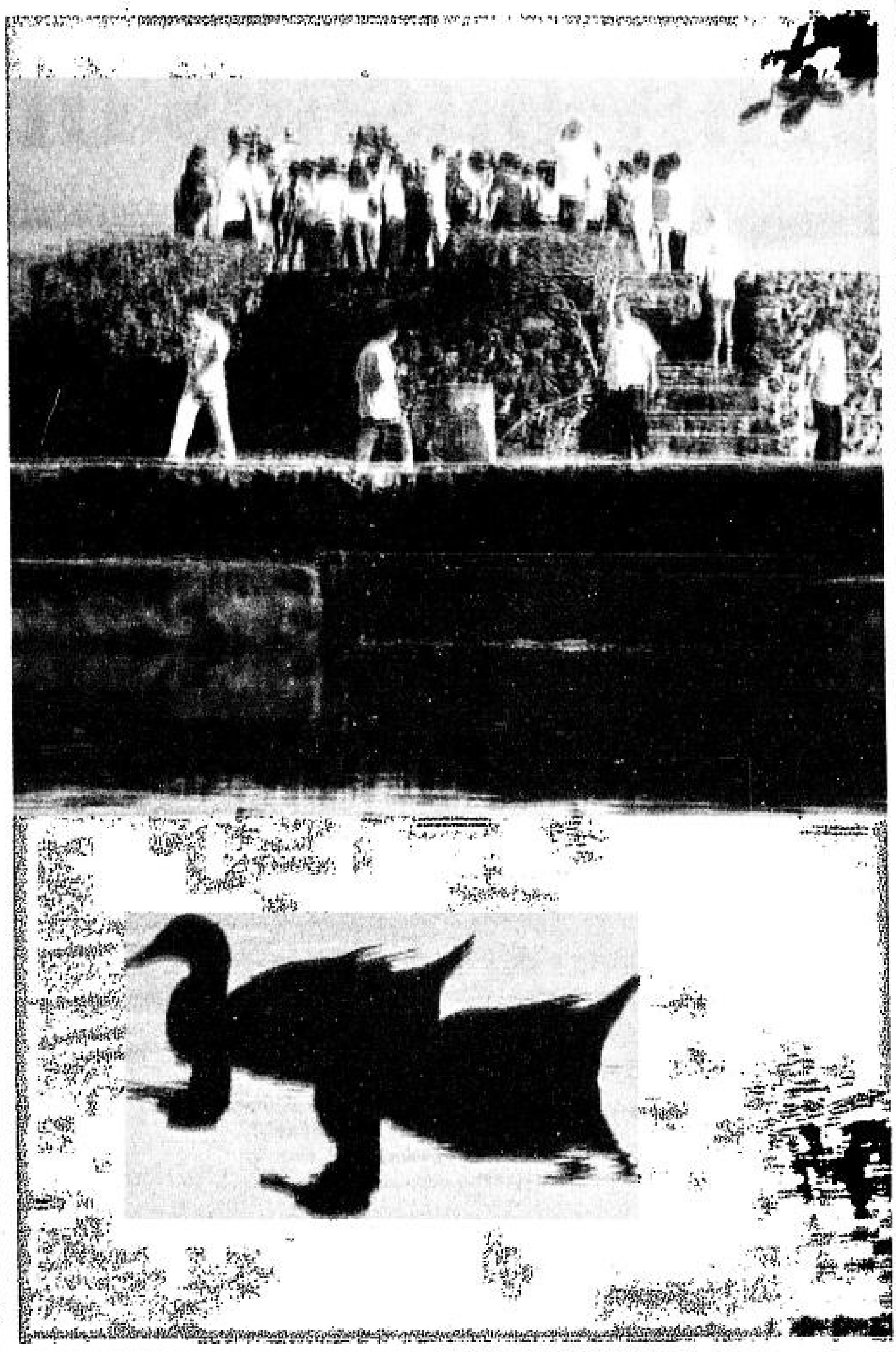
The measures that the DENR outlined are the following:

- Cleanup should only include the collection of debris coated with oil found floating within mangrove stands or stranded/accumulated waste materials along the shore.
- Avoid the cutting of any parts of mangrove trees.
- People cleaning the mangrove areas should be careful not to trample on the mangroves' roots system.
- Remove blockage of debris or any other waste within mangrove stands to provide adequate tidal exchange.
- The use of any kind of dispersants, bioremediation and implementation of other clean-up measures should be cleared with DENR or local authorities.

Amador further said that should any group need supervision in the cleaning of mangrove areas, it may coordinate with DENR personnel so that the office will re-deploy technical personnel to provide the necessary technical assistance.

Fisheries associated with mangrove forests, much of it collected by the poorest of the poor, contribute 0.67 tons per ha of mangrove forest per year to total fisheries, according to the PCAMRD.

It added that mangroves are home to 68 species of fish including *bangus* or milkfish and mullet, 54 species of crustaceans (shrimps, prawns, and crabs), and 56 species of gastropods like snails, whelks, and slugs.



QUIET SWIM
HAZEL VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS
All is serene for ducks at a pond in the Costa Aguada Island Resort in Inampulugan, one of the areas hit by an oil spill from a Petron-contracted tanker. President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the area recently. The crowd in the background are photographers taking pictures of Ms Arroyo.

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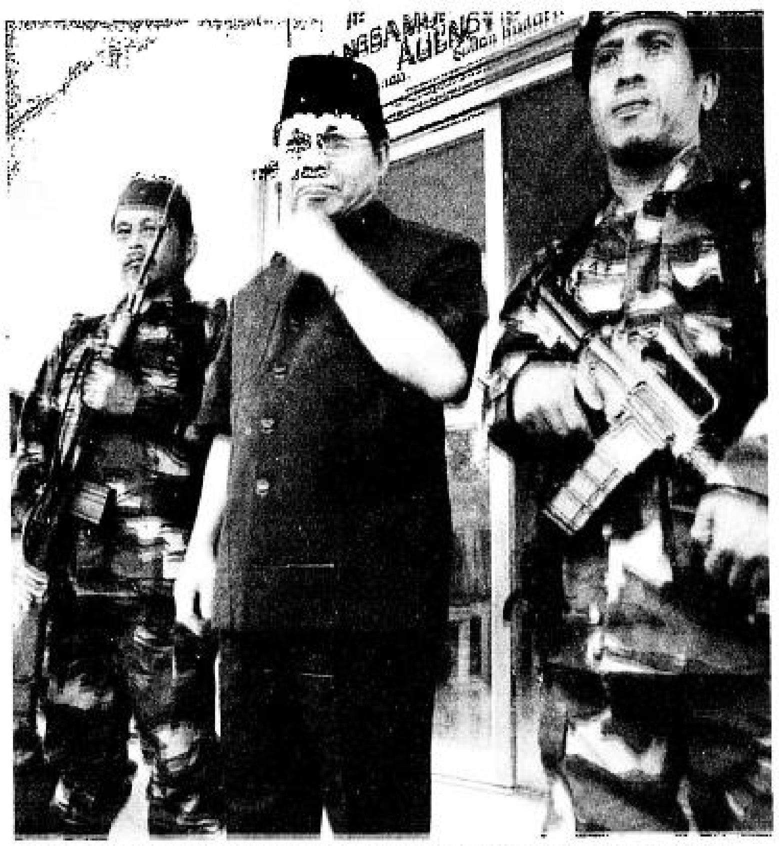
Envoy says Mindanao peace part of 'high agenda' of Japan gov't



MILF chair Ibrahim Murad stands outside an MILF office with two MILF guerrillas standing in attention.
REUTERS

COTABATO CITY—Tokyo has reiterated its commitment to help resolve the decades-old Moro rebellion in Mindanao.

Taeko Takahashi, head of the political section of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, said in a statement Wednesday that her government was closely coordinating with Malaysia to ensure the success of the peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Takahashi said the peace process was part of her country's' "high agenda."

"The Japanese government is committed to help the peace process in Mindanao as a manifestation of our government's commitment to peace, security and stability not only in Mindanao but in the Asian region," Takahashi said.

Japan has offered to send representatives to the International Monitoring Team (IMT), which monitors the implementation of the ceasefire accord between the Philippine government and the MILF.

She said the deployment of a Japanese contingent to the IMT would be one of the main talking points of the upcoming meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi.

"I am very sure that the people of Japan are very happy to help in the peace process between the government and the MILF," Takahashi said.

Early this week, government and MILF negotiators met in Kuala Lumpur in a bid to iron out the sticky issue on territories.

The issue on ancestral domain is seen as the remaining stumbling block to a final peace settlement.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the negotiations went smoothly but said he could not provide additional details. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cops claim arrest of kidnap gang head

TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR—POLICE ANnounced the arrest of the alleged leader of a kidnap-for-ransom group known as the Salahay Gang.

The group, which has been operating in the province for about 10 years now, has been a major headache for authorities.

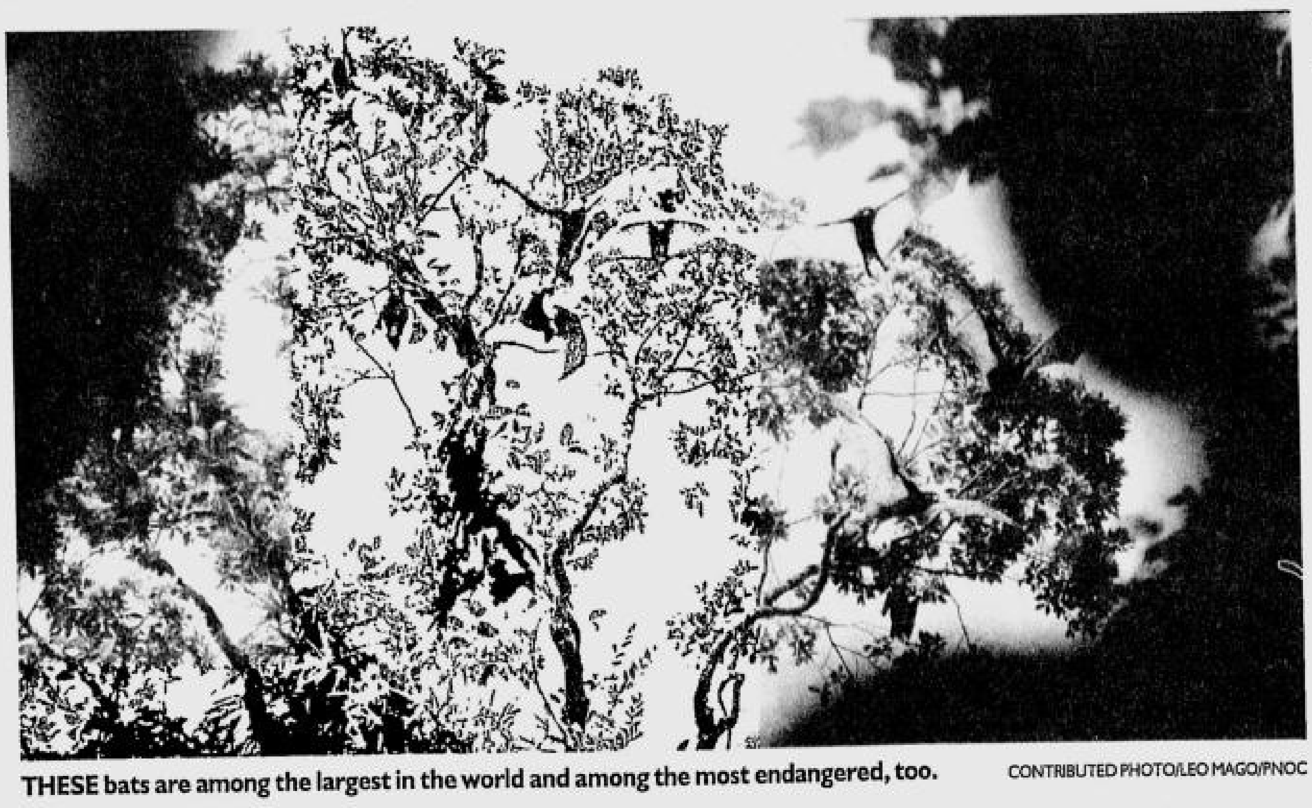
But Senior Supt. Alex Ga, provincial police director, said that with the arrest of Arturo Umba, alias Rudy Ampo and Licoan, the Salahay Gang—which has at least six members armed with high-powered firearms—had been crippled.

Umba was arrested in Cantilan town on Aug. 29 following the failed kidnapping of Jane Uy, one of the owners of Ventura Logging Co.

Ga said police were optimistic that the Salahay Gang was now a spent force and that the arrest of Umba would put a stop to kidnappings in the province.

Among the kidnapping cases involving the gang was the October 2001 abduction of Alejandro Paquillo, his 16-year-old daughter Mae, and nieces Marivelous Perez and Marille Perez, both 17.

Umba's group was forced to release the victims without ransom after police tracked down its hideout. *Bert Pacate, Inquirer Mindanao*



THESE bats are among the largest in the world and among the most endangered, too. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEO MAGO/PNOC

Power firm bans hunting of giant bats

From page A1

mal production field of PNOC-Energy Development Corp. (EDC) and National Power Corp.'s 150-megawatt Bac-Man power plant complex.

Engineer Liberato S. Virata, PNOC resident manager, has issued an order prohibiting the hunting of the bats which are part of the eco-tourism being promoted by the company.

The geothermal area has been officially declared by the Department of Tourism as one of the best eco-tourism sites in the country. It has twin falls, a boiling mud pool, boiling lake and a geothermal view deck.

Information campaign

Virata said an information campaign had been launched to dissuade residents from harming the bats. He said an area had been established where tourists could watch and take photos of the bats hanging from trees and cliffs.

"Caring for the environment, which includes all living things has always been part of PNOC's corporate social responsibility program," Virata stressed.

The PNOC has also intensified forest patrols to ensure protection of the mammals, Environmental Management Division chief Leo Mago said.

According to Alviola's report, the golden-crowned flying fox is a fruit-eating bat endemic to the Philippines. It travels each night as far as 40 km to forage for food consisting of figs and other forest fruits.

"The seeds in the fruits they eat travel quickly through their digestive tracts and are defecated as they fly, which is critical in maintaining ecological stability since fig trees which can tolerate the harsh tropical sun is central to re-colonizing land laid bare by fire, landslides or volcanic eruption," Alviola's report stated.

Tastes like chicken

The bat, however, is now considered highly endangered due to the continuous destruction of their habitats and hunting. Residents said the bats taste like chicken.

Alviola said a colony of this bat could grow to as many as 100,000 in the 1900s but was now down to 1,500-2,000.

He also mentioned the Philippine forest horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus Inops*). Little is known of this bat. It is difficult to capture due to its ability to evade nets. It has an extra-sensitive mode of echo-location and could zero-in with pinpoint accuracy on small insect prey while flying.

Estimates indicate that a thousand of these bats consume each night at least 50,000 insects like moths and weevils that feed on rice and corn.

Record pregnancy

Also found in the area is the Philippine pygmy fruit bat—a world-record holder for time spent in pregnancy, said Alviola. This weighs only 18 grams with a wing span of about 30 cm, lives for up to 12 years, and has one of the longest life spans for bats.

All the females of this bat are pregnant 50 weeks each year for their entire adult life.

Other bats identified include the common short-nosed fruit bat (*Cynopterus brachyotis*), Philippine pygmy fruit bat (*Haplonycteris fischeri*), dagger-toothed flower bat (*Macroglossus minimus*), musky fruit bat (*Ptenochirus jagori*), mottled-winged flying fox (*Pteropus leucopterus*) and common bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schreibersi*).

Blair vows to quit within one year to quiet critics

From page A1

office soon—or at least announce a departure date—had grown more vocal in recent weeks. Their protests had been fueled by widespread anger at his handling of the recent fighting in the Middle East and anxiety over Labour's slide in the polls.

Eight junior officials quit Wednesday to insist on Blair's resignation and news reports said Blair and Treasury chief Gordon Brown, who is considered likely to be the next prime minister, had shouting arguments in Blair's office over a hand-over date.

But the two may ultimately have reached an understanding.

Brown, opening a children's sports tournament in Glasgow, Scotland, said shortly before the prime minister's announcement that while he, like others, had had questions about Blair's plans, he would support his decisions.

Best interests of the party

"When I met the prime minister yesterday I said to him ... it is for him to make the decision," said Brown, who looked relaxed and cheerful. "I will support him in the decisions he makes."

"This cannot and should not be about private arrangements but of what is in the best interests of our party ... and the best interests of our country," Brown said.

"I think he will clarify his departure time and I think he will say that ... it's probably not going to be the case that he'll still be in Downing Street a year from now," Ruth Kelly, Britain's communities secretary and a close Blair ally, told GMTV television earlier.

Theories about the exact timing of Blair's departure abounded.

Sky News and the British Broadcasting Corp. said Blair would likely trigger a leadership election in May and leave his job a month or two later.

Blair, who took office in 1997, gave only a wave and a smile when reporters shouted "When are you going to go?" as he emerged briefly from his office to greet Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Blair led Labour to its third straight election win last year and has said he would not seek a fourth term. He has also promised to give his successor—widely expected to be Brown—time to settle into office before the next elections.

Labour lawmakers had grown increasingly frustrated at the prime minister's continued vagueness about his retirement date. Seeking to quiet the frenzy, top officials had said increasingly clearly this week that Blair intended to step aside next year.

Blair has long resisted setting a public time frame himself, fearing that doing so would instantly make him a lame duck and drain away his remaining authority.

But the growing clamor in the party may have forced his hand.

Brown made no public statement, planning to open a children's sports tournament in Scotland as the political drama unfolded in London.

Cabinet member Jack Straw, who reportedly was acting as a mediator between Blair and Brown, said he was certain that Brown had not authorized a letter in which a group of legislators urged Blair to go.

In an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. radio, Straw said the turmoil was not the result of a conspiracy, but of "a coalescence of anxieties and sentiments which come together."

Unlike the Conservative Party's sharp disagreements over the European Union which led to Margaret Thatcher's ouster as prime minister in 1990, Straw said Labour was united on policy. Asked why civil war seemed to be breaking out anyway, Straw responded: "That's a good question."

Many within the Labour Party were furious at Blair's refusal to break ranks with US President George W. Bush and call for an early ceasefire in Lebanon, a stance critics saw as tacitly acquiescing in continued Israeli bombing.

Party excited

Environment Secretary David Miliband—a key Blair ally—said on Thursday that Brown was the only person who should succeed Blair and claimed the party was excited about the prospect of his premiership.

"I would say the transition ... the energizing, refreshing transition to Gordon Brown—not to anyone else—is a transition that is about ideas and values more than about dates," he said, according to an interview published Thursday in the left-wing New Statesman magazine.

Eight junior officials quit on Wednesday rather than remove their names from the letter demanding that Blair step aside. A total of 15 Labour lawmakers wrote in the letter that while they supported the centrist direction in which Blair had taken the party, he was no longer the right man to lead it.

Tom Watson, the most senior of those to resign, left his post as minister for veterans in the Ministry of Defense.

Blair shot back, saying he had intended to fire Watson for being "disloyal, discourteous and wrong" in signing the lawmakers' letter. *AP*

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Stricken China Air jet lands on just 1 engine

By Nikko Dizon

A CHINA AIRLINES FLIGHT ENROUTE from Taipei to Jakarta made an emergency landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday morning after the aircraft developed engine trouble.

The Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) said the Manila tower received an unexpected call from Flight CI 811 pilot Ming Yi Ti requesting the emergency landing because his Airbus 330-300 had developed problems in one of its two engines. The pilot said the Manila airport was the nearest landing site.

Miaa officials immediately made space for the troubled China Airlines flight. The aircraft landed on one engine on Naia runway 24 at 11:03 a.m., bringing 219 passengers and 12 crew members to safety.

The plane was towed for maintenance and repair, the Miaa said.

China Airlines sent a new aircraft to Manila to pick up passengers of the troubled flight around 3 p.m.

Palace sacks public works usec for graft

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG HAS SACKED PUBLIC Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto for falsifying his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN), particularly for not disclosing the business interests of his wife for 10 years.

PLEYTO

Presidential Anti-Graft Commission Chair Constancia de Guzman yesterday announced Pleyto's dismissal, which came after the Palace on Aug. 29 affirmed the PAGC's recommendation to fire Pleyto. It was the second time Malacañang had affirmed the recommendation of the PAGC.

At the same time, De Guzman said she was awaiting Palace action on a PAGC recommendation to dismiss seven other government officials for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law.

These were two assistant secretaries, three directors and two chairs of government agencies, she said.

De Guzman said the PAGC was also investigating two Cabinet secretaries for "procurement-related" offenses. She did not identify the secretaries because the investigations were still in the early stages. She would only say the two were very "visible."

Unanswered question

At a Palace briefing, De Guzman said Pleyto violated Section 8 of Republic Act No. 6713 and Section 7 of RA 1319.

"This was for the failure of Undersecretary Pleyto to reflect in his SALN for so many years the business interests of his wife," she said.

Records showed Pleyto had merely stated in his SALN for the years 1992-2000 that his wife, Miguela, was a businesswoman. To the question of whether he, his wife or children had other financial or business interests, Pleyto had declared "none," according to De Guzman.

In the years 2000-2002, Pleyto did not answer the particular question in his SALN. It was in 2003-2004 that he started to answer the question again.

De Guzman said Pleyto's case was brought to the PAGC's attention in December 2002 by "concerned employees of the DPWH."

The PAGC learned from the Department of Trade and Industry that Pleyto's wife owned two pawnshops, a piggery, a poultry and a laundry shop.

One pawnshop had been registered with the DTI since 1993 and the other since 2000, while the piggery and poultry were registered since 1998 and the laundry since 2001.

"These four businesses under the name of his wife were never reflected in his SALN and from 1992 to 2000 (Pleyto) had declared 'none' (under business interests)," De Guzman said.

"So how can you say your SALN is true when you did not disclose (the businesses)?" she said.

Pro-Erap

She also denied speculation the PAGC recommendation to fire Pleyto had something to do with his being closely identified with former President Joseph Estrada.

"The PAGC never factors in issues not included in the complaints filed before the commission," she said.

Malacañang first affirmed the PAGC recommendation to dismiss Pleyto on Jan. 29, 2004, but Pleyto filed a motion for reconsideration the following month, saying he couldn't be held liable for any violation. At the very least, he said, his SALN should have been considered "incomplete" or "improperly filed."

He also claimed the secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways or the Office of the President should have advised him to correct his SALN in accordance with compliance procedures under Section 10 of RA 6713.

But the PAGC said compliance procedures had not been established by the DPWH and even if there were such procedures, "the public works secretary's job is limited to ensuring his subordinates had filed their SALNs for the year."

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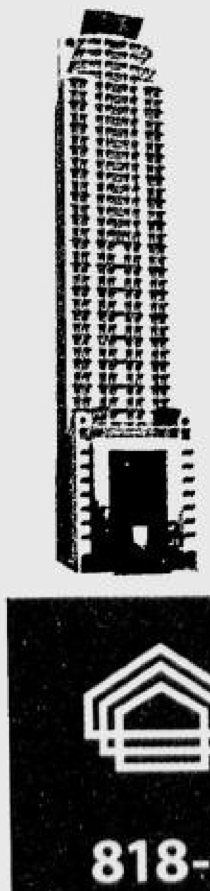

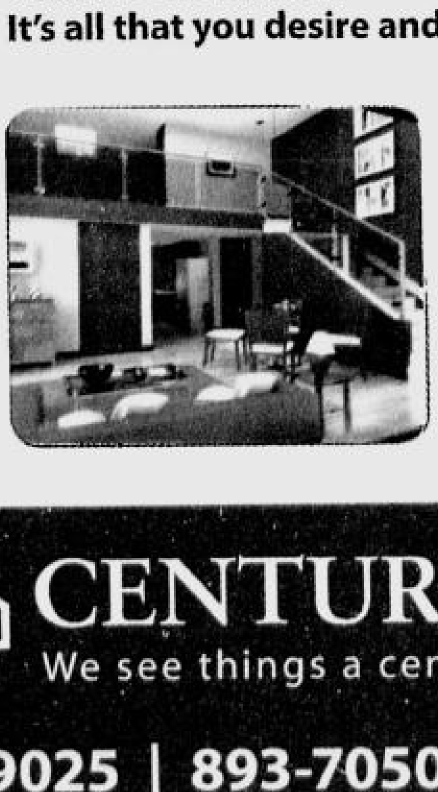

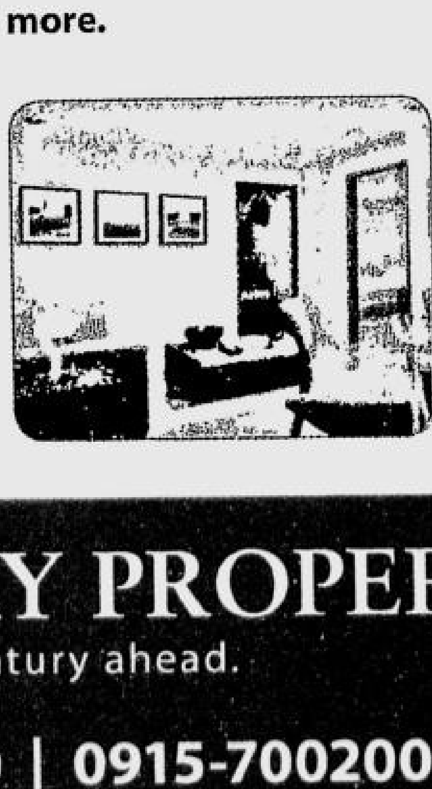

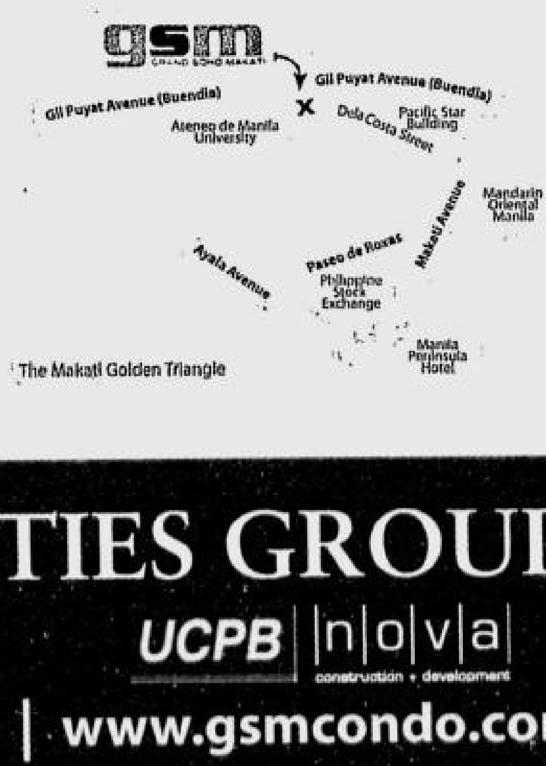

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FG files libel raps vs PDI

Columnist Tulfo, editors named in suit

By Tina G. Santos and DJ Yap

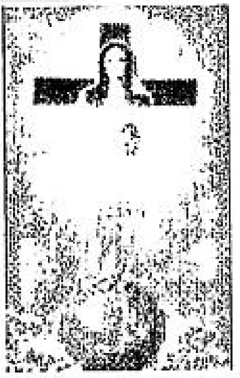
FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE Miguel "Mike" Arroyo yesterday slapped multimillion peso libel suits against INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo, his brothers Raffy and Erwin and the editors of two publications.

Arroyo, accompanied by his lawyer Ruy Rondain, went to the Manila Prosecutor's Office before noon where he filed a libel case against Tulfo for linking him to smuggling activities. Also included in the complaint were the editorial board of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and its sister publication, Bandera.

In the afternoon, he went to the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office where he filed a P10-million suit against the Tulfo brothers for accusing him of being behind the cancellation of their television program.

The First Gentleman said he decided to file complaint against Tulfo and the other respondents because "it's time that I protect my rights. Enough is enough."

FG FILES/ A18



Daily Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,
send now Your Spirit over the earth.
Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts
of all nations, that they may be preserved
from degeneration, disaster and war.
May the Lady of All Nations
be our Advocate. Amen.

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Meralco proudly presents The Price is Light. An entertaining and unique game show that aims to answer the public's questions about Meralco's services. The audience will be educated on everything from how to read their meters to every detail about their monthly billing. The game show, which will feature several ABS-CBN stars as participants will be part of a day-long list of activities that will tour different SM malls. Contestants will also be selected from the public. They get to play with their favorite celebrity and win prizes courtesy of Meralco.

Aside from the game proper, there will also be several booths where the public can learn about meter-reading and bill computation. They will also get the chance to find out which of their appliances impact on their bill the most through Meralco's Appliance Calculator and Consumption Estimator.

The Price is Light will be in the following malls on the following dates:

SM Fairview
September 23, 2006

SM Sucat
October 1, 2006

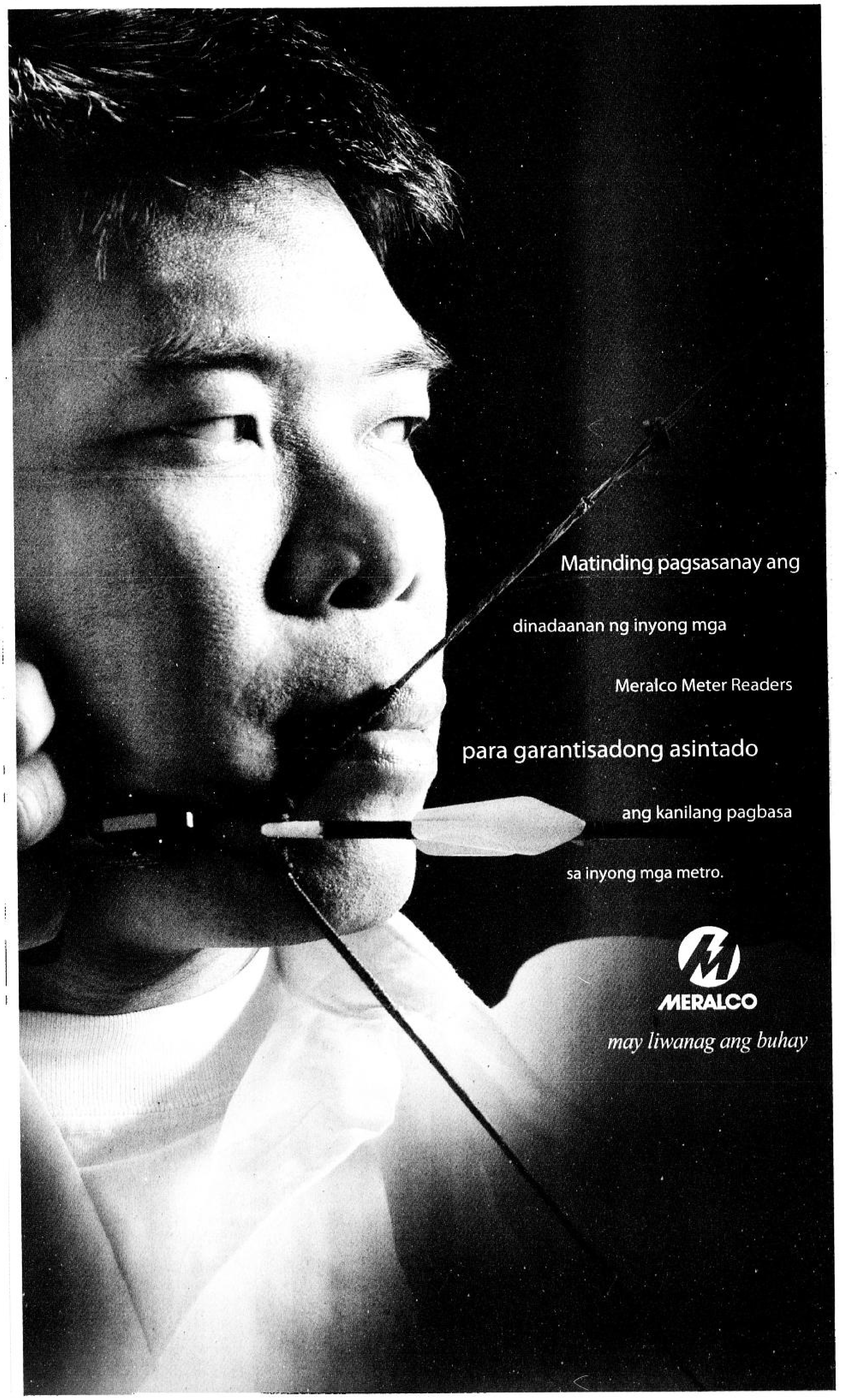
SM North Edsa
October 7, 2006

SM Bacoor
October 14, 2006

SM Megamall*
October 21, 2006

SM Marilao*
October 28, 2006

*Tentative venues



1 dead, 15 injured in SLEx road accident

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A MAN WAS KILLED WHILE 15 passengers were injured after a bus hit a six-wheeler truck parked on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) in Parañaque City before dawn yesterday.

Case investigator SPO1 Jerry Formales identified the fatality as Ricardo Bernales, 41, the driver of the truck.

Among those injured were Francisco Amita, Rodolfo Navarro, Asuncion Navarro, Alvin de la Cruz, Felicito Banal, Rocogail Concepcion, Elpidio Amita, Jocelyn Siano, Josephine Sardena, Raymond Reyes and Noel Ladunsa, the bus conductor.

Based on initial investigation, the truck had a flat tire while it was cruising on the southbound lane of the expressway. Bernales then parked the vehicle near the Sun Valley Subdivision and got out to change the tire.

A Golden Highway Transit bus, however, with plate number NXA-379, hit the truck and ran over Bernales, killing him instantly. The bus driver, identified as Jornie Julagting, fled after the incident, Formales said.

"The bus was apparently going too fast. It is also possible that the driver was sleepy at that time as he did not even see the spare tire that was placed a few feet away from the stalled truck," the police official added.

Julagting will be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and multiple injuries and damage to property.

Media exec's death raises questions

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WAS IT SUICIDE OR MURDER?

The head of a publishing firm was found dead on Wednesday afternoon inside a toilet on the third floor of her office on Rufino Street, Legazpi Village, Makati.

The body of Delia Gutierrez, 51, president and chief executive officer of Media G8way Corp., was found by her husband, Ibarra, the company's editor in chief.

Gutierrez had been stabbed five times in the chest; her throat had also been slashed.

Ibarra was subsequently questioned by the police who clarified that he was not considered a suspect. "The husband thinks the stab wounds were self-inflicted, but we do not discount the possibility of foul play. This means the husband will be subjected to investigation," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, Criminal Investigation Section chief. "We will conduct an investigation of the corporate situation, the status of the company ... if there were financial problems," he added.

Media G8way Corp. publishes information technology magazines such as PC World Philippines and Computerworld.

'No fogging operations without coordinating with DOH'

FOGGING operations to kill dengue-carrying mosquitoes are not only costly but could be harmful to one's health, according to the health department.

RAFFY LERMA

By Tina G. Santos

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) YESTERDAY urged local government units and the public not to conduct fogging operations to eliminate dengue-carrying mosquitoes, saying the method was not only costly but also harmful to one's health.

The warning was issued as the department confirmed that there was an outbreak of the disease in Barangay Maybangkal in Morong, Rizal, with three persons dead. Dengue is an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes and characterized by rashes, headaches, pain in the joints and a high fever typically lasting from two to three days.

Dr. Eric Tayag, officer in charge of the DOH National Epidemiology Center, said 13,468 cases nationwide were recorded this year from Jan. 9 to Aug. 29, with 167 deaths. But he noted that the figure was 42 percent down compared to the total number of cases last year.

Tayag said they would coordinate with local officials to hold weekly fogging operations in Barangay Maybangkal. But he urged local government units not to conduct fogging operations without coordinating with the health department.

"We don't use fogging to prevent dengue. We use it to cut the epidemic cycle. We're using it in Barangay Maybangkal; it's a different situation. But we don't recommend it because it's harmful to one's health especially when inhaled by persons with asthma," Tayag explained.

Acting Pasay mayor seeks police chief's relief

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ON HIS FIRST DAY AT WORK, acting Pasay Mayor Allan Panaligan knew exactly what to do: He sought the relief of the city's police chief for allegedly exposing him and the other officials to danger yesterday.

Panaligan forwarded his request for the relief of acting Pasay police chief, Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio, to Southern Police District (SPD) director Ricardo Padilla and Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar.

Padilla, however, said Panaligan was in no position to order Valerio's relief "as he is just an acting mayor."

Panaligan said he had asked Valerio to clear the City Hall main entrance of Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad's supporters so he and three other acting officers—Councilors Arvin Tolentino, Marlon Pesebre and Jonathan Cabrera—could safely enter the building.

"But he was not able to secure us. When we arrived here this morning, it was the watchmen who were at the main entrance, not his men. We were lucky the mayor's supporters did not attack us. But what if the supporters went berserk like yesterday when the DILG served the suspension order?" he said.

To avoid a confrontation, he and the three other officials used a side entrance, Panaligan added.

In an emergency meeting with the city department heads on Wednesday, Panaligan said he and the other officials had agreed to restore operations at City Hall to normalcy by clearing the driveway and parking lot of Trinidad's supporters.

He had particularly instructed Valerio to contain the crowd, which had already thinned after the suspension order was served against Trinidad the other day.

"But these did not materialize," Panaligan said, adding that he had to appoint his security officer, Supt. Michael Filart, from the SPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, to secure City Hall. The INQUIRER tried to get Valerio's side, but he said he did not want to speak on the matter.

DID YOU KNOW

THE CENTER OF THE FATIMA apostolate in the country, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, is in Marulas, Valenzuela City. The 4,000-sq m shrine, located on an elevated spot surrounded by trees, houses a church which can seat 1,000 persons. It was declared a tourist site by the Department of Tourism and a pilgrimage destination by the Diocese of Malolos.

Fatima is a town in Portugal where the Blessed Virgin Mary reportedly revealed herself in 1917 to three children. She is said to have given siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin, Lucia Dos Santos, three secrets which Pope John XXIII had called "the world's greatest hope for peace." *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-018-g

RE-BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACES INTENDED FOR PHILHEALTH NCR-CENTRAL BRANCH OFFICE, SERVICE OFFICE AND OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR NCR GROUP

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 3,292,800.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Lease of Office Spaces Intended for PhilHealth NCR-Central Branch Office, Service Office and Office of the Vice-President for NCR Group. The amount of **P392.00** is the maximum bid price per square meter and per month of leased space. Bids in excess of the ABC and/or the maximum bid price per square meter and per month shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

Location

The location of the building should be along Quezon Avenue and not more than 2.5 kilometers from EDSA, where it is easily accessible to all PhilHealth clientele, e.g. members, partners and health providers.

Space Requirement

The total space requirement (rentable) is approximately 2,100 square meters.

a. For the space requirement of PhilHealth Membership Assistance Center (PMAC), it must be at least 500 sq. m. situated in the Ground Floor.

b. It must have at least 30 parking slots for PhilHealth clients and 15 of which are free of charge and reserved for PhilHealth Officers and Employees.

PMAC Location and Space Requirement

The location for PMAC must be situated at the ground floor of the building to be accessible and convenient for the members.

Building (Equipment and Facilities)

The building must be structurally sound as checked by the proper authorities.

The building must have the following equipment/facilities:

- Sub-metering for electrical and water supply;
- Fire protection system such as water sprinklers, smoke detectors and fire alarm system;
- Fire exits;
- Floor ceiling must be at least 2.2 meters in clear height;
- Comfort Rooms in each floor at least one (1) for male and one (1) for females;
- Space for pylon post for vertical signage;
- Standby generator;
- Grounding system;
- Lightning Arrester; and
- Removable/Detachable acoustic ceiling

I.T. Requirements

The building must have the following:

- Available riser for data cables to pass through from one floor to another;
- Wire ways for network cables going from one room to another;
- An area of at least 2 sq. m. at the rooftop of the building, provided free of charge, for the installation of wireless communication equipment;
- The ceiling must have at least 0.30 meter clear space from the bottom of the beams for the installation of horizontal cabling of data cables;
- PhilHealth should be allowed to demolish portion of walls and floors for the installation of data cables and others; and
- Electrical room for the termination of data voice and electrical cables.

Basic Term

The basic term of the contract shall be for a period of two (2) months, subject for renewal.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws of regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from **September 8 to 22, 2006** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **PhP 10,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 25, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or before **October 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room**. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids
and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd.,
Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
Facsimile No.637-4735
e-mail: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI - Sept 8 & 15 2006)

More libel suits filed by Arroyo brothers vs 'ungrateful' Cayetano

By DJ Yap and Michael Lim Ubac

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo yesterday turned up the heat on Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, a day after they filed a complaint against him before the House ethics committee.

The First Gentleman alleged that the congressman had received money from him during the 2004 elections. The two Arroyo solons also filed libel suits against Cayetano in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

In two separate complaints, the Arroyos each sought P6 million in damages and an additional P500,000 in lawyer's fees from the Pateros-Taguig representative. They accused the lawmaker of fabricating stories for political gain when he said the First Family owned a large dollar account in the bank in Germany.

The First Gentleman had earlier filed a P30 million libel suit against Cayetano based on the same charges.

"I can't understand this Cayetano. He is so ungrateful. During the 2004 campaign, he and his sister came to me, saying, '*Tito*, we have no money anymore, not even money for watchers.'" he told media. "When I gave him money, he said 'that's not enough,' So I even added more. Personal funds, *ha*," he added.

Cayetano admitted that the First Family had donated money to his campaign in 2004. "But the money did not pass through me, it went straight to the party," he said.

He explained that during the elections, the Cayetanos belonged to the Lakas-PPC ruling party. "So, it's natural that the party would help us because his wife is the standard bearer. It's not as it we were begging him for money," he added.

FG files libel raps vs PDI

From page A17

"If he can do this to the spouse of the President of the country, what more to those who have less in life?" he told reporters. "I vehemently deny all the accusations. These are all lies."

Apart from Tulfo, also named respondents in the first libel suit were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco, associate editor Abelardo Ulanday, associate editor for readership Rosario Garcellano, news editor Artemio Engracia, opinion editor Jorge Aruta, national editor Pergentino Bandayrel Jr. and senior desk editor Juan Sarmiento Jr. They were slapped with eight counts of libel each.

In a separate complaint, six counts of libel were filed against Bandera publisher Eileen Manguiat, editor in chief Beting Laygo Dolor, executive editor Lito Bautista, managing editor Arlene Burgos, associate editor Jimmy Alcantara and circulation manager Raymond Rivera.

The complaint was based on several columns Tulfo had written in the INQUIRER and Bandera which exposed the alleged smuggling activities of Vicky Toh and her brother. The columnist claimed that the Tohs were virtually "untouchable" because they were protected by Arroyo.

"Tulfo's false accusation that I 'protect' the Tohs gives the public the wrong impression that I interfere in government affairs. It paints me as a meddling, power-brokering and abusive individual who uses marital ties to the President for nefarious purposes," Arroyo said in his complaint.

He stressed that he has no illicit relationship with Toh and that he had never helped anyone evade taxes. He added that the Tohs have been officially exonerated by the Bureau of Customs from all tax and smuggling accusations.

In filing the second libel suit, Arroyo cited as basis the press conference held on Aug. 2 by the Tulfo brothers in which they accused him of having a hand in the cancellation of their TV program, "Isumbong Mo (Tulfo Brothers), on the government-run RPN-9.

Their claim, however, has been denied by the management of the TV network.

At a brief press conference held after he filed the second suit at the QC Prosecutor's Office, Arroyo said he was past the point of forgiving the Tulfos, especially Ramon, who had once been his friend.

"How can you forgive a person who has not even said sorry?" he added.

His lawyer, Rondain, said, "This gives people the impression that he (Arroyo) interferes and we have repeatedly said that he never interferes in governance."

"The First Gentleman has always been willing to accept criticisms but it has to be fair and has to have factual basis, not fabricated," he added.

Ivory Coast gov't resigns over pollution scandal

ABIDJAN—THE ENTIRE GOVernment of Ivory Coast resigned late on Wednesday following a toxic waste scandal in which at least three people died, including two children, and 1,500 others were poisoned, a source close to Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny said.

President Laurent Gbagbo accepted the resignation and asked Banny to form a new government, the source said.

"Mr. Banny handed in the resignation of his government to the president because of its failure and negligence in the toxic waste spillage affair in Abidjan," the source told AFP.

Poisonous chemicals were dumped three weeks ago on open-air garbage sites around the commercial capital, Abidjan, a city of four million people.

They had been unloaded from the Probo Koala, a Panamanian-registered ship which docked at Abidjan on Aug. 19 and left again on Aug. 21, the city's port authority confirmed on Wednesday.

The waste contains hydrogen sulphide and organochloride, which are both poisonous and can cause nausea, rashes, fainting, diarrhea and headaches, the French consulate in Abidjan said.

Government spokesperson Hubert Oulaye said that tests had showed that drinking water had not been contaminated but that all precautions would be taken to protect the population, including relocating those affected. *AFP*

Bomb attacks in Baghdad kill 18

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—FIVE bomb attacks in Baghdad killed at least 18 people and wounded 57 Thursday, hours before a highly anticipated ceremony in which the US-led coalition was to hand over control of the country's armed forces command to Iraqi authorities.

The bombs, all targeting police patrols, all occurred within about three hours of each other in central, northern and western parts of the capital.

A suicide car bomb targeting a police patrol outside a gas station near the Elouya Hospital in central Baghdad killed 10 people, including four policemen and wounded 18, including six policemen, police Lt. Bilal Ali Majeed said.

The blast damaged 20 cars, including six police vehicles, as well as several nearby shops.

Another suicide car bomb in Taiyran Square in the center of the city killed two civilians and two police special forces members, and wounding 13 people, including seven police special forces troops, Majeed said.

Earlier, a bomb hidden under a parked car near al-Nidaa Mosque in northern Baghdad killed three civilians and wounded another 20, police Lt. Thair Mahmoud said.

The wounded included several members of the Iraqi security forces, Zakariyah Hassan of the Azamiyah police said.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb in Qahtan Square near Yarmouk hospital wounded four people, including a policeman, Mahmoud said, while elsewhere, in the upscale district of Mansour, a roadside bomb explosion killed a man and wounded another two people.

The blasts came as Iraq was take control of its armed forces command, a major step in the country's painful path toward independence and an essential move before international troops can eventually withdraw.

"This is such a huge, significant event that's about to occur," US military spokesperson Maj. Gen. William Caldwell said Wednesday of the shift in the Iraqi command. "If you go back and you map out significant events that have occurred in this government's formation in taking control of the country, tomorrow is gigantic." *AP*

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Royale Homes Marketing Celebrates 12th Anniversary

At 12, Royale Homes Marketing Corporation's growth is unstoppable. From being the marketing arm of Royale Homes Realty and Birdland Realty in 1994, Royale Homes Marketing has earned the trust of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc., one of the country's leading real estate developers. It is the name behind Sta. Lucia's venture projects such as Club Morocco Beach Resort and Residential Estates in Subic, Metropolis Residenza in Libis, and Greenwoods Executive Village in Pasig, among many others.

Spearheaded by Matilde Robles, Ma. Carmina Sotto and Ma. Melinda Bernardino, Royale Homes is behind the successful marketing and development projects in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal, Baguio City, Pangasinan, Subic, and Davao City. It has marketed close to 50 properties nationwide and running. With its effective strategies in real estate marketing, sales continue to shoot up.

In recognition of its fast progress, Royale Homes was awarded the Most Outstanding Real Estate Marketing Arm by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards last June 2006.

From a one-room office in 1994, Royale Homes is now occupying a whole floor and with an ongoing expansion of its Training and Development Center and branches strategically located in different key cities in the country where its projects are present. The corporation is also coming up with Ponte Verde de Sto. Tomas project in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Sta. Barbara Place in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, keeping up with its vision of providing quality products, excellent service and guaranteed investment to its clients.

Royale Homes' 12th anniversary celebration will be capped by an awards night for its outstanding employees and loyal sales force at the Acropolis Clubhouse in Libis on Sept. 8, 2006.

ADVT.

ROYALE HOMES

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Royale Homes Marketing Corporation – a marketing network *par excellence* - is now celebrating its 12th year of fruitful partnership with our developer, clients, sales force and employees.

The proven success formula in our company is the continuing high regard for the relationships and over-all welfare of the people in our organization. Together, we strive to grow and reach our goals, fueled with a passion and ignited by a vision to be the leading real-estate marketing network in the country today. We continue to pay tribute to the people who have made our current achievements possible and together as one, we look forward to the many challenges and triumphs of the years ahead.

It does feel great to be with Royale Homes!

Royale Service Pinnacle Award

Rosalie Bornales
Employee of the Year

Favorite of the Family

Cecille Demate

Ten-Year Service Awards (Staff)

Standing Leonardo Cruz, Vicente Congzon, Jr.
Seated Malda Fredeluces, Janice Mendoza, Nenita Luego

Five-Year Service Awards (Staff)

Rosalie Bornales & Conrad Mananes

Active Service Awards (Sales Force)

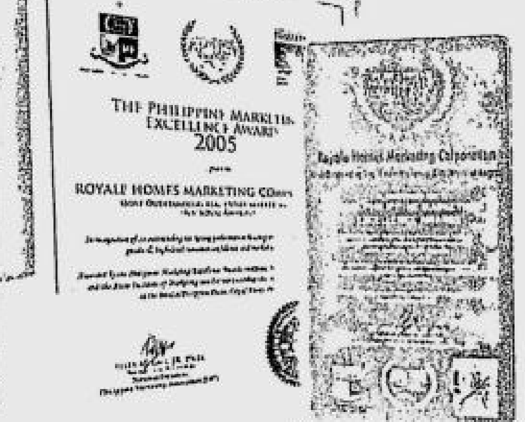
Ten-Year Active Service (left to right)
Anthony Ocampo - Div 6 SMD, Guillermo Sango - Div 6 SMD,
(Seated left) Rustica Ramos - Div 9 VP
Five Years Active Service (Seated right) Alicia Belangue - Div 10 MD

Attendance Award

Shirley Amarante

Most Active Branch

Desiree Palomo & Ross Ann Ramos
Cabanatuan Branch



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Tel no: (082) 222-4858
Ivy Hill Information Center:
Taft Avenue, Manila

The Royale Homes 12th Anniversary Celebration will be held today beginning with a Thanksgiving Mass at the main office followed by an awarding ceremony and party at the Acropolis Community Clubhouse, Libis, Quezon City

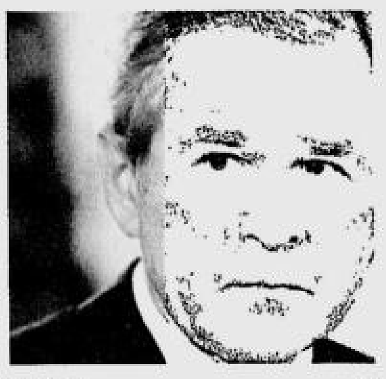
Bush admits CIA prisons

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH finally is acknowledging that the CIA runs secret prisons overseas and saying that tough interrogation forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

Bush said Wednesday that 14 suspects—including the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and architects of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole and the US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998—had been turned over to the Defense Department and moved to the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for trial.

Bush said the CIA program "has helped us to take potential mass murderers off the streets before they were able to kill." Releasing information declassified just hours earlier, Bush said the capture of one terrorist months after the Sept. 11 attacks had led to the capture of another and then another, and had revealed planning for attacks using airplanes, car bombs and anthrax.

Nearing the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11, Bush pressed Congress to pass administration-drafted legislation quickly to authorize use of military commissions for trials of terror suspects. Legislation is needed because the Supreme Court said in June the administration's plan for trying detainees in military tribunals violated US and international law.



BUSH AP

"These are dangerous men with unparalleled knowledge about terrorist networks and their plans for new attacks," Bush said, defending the CIA program he authorized after the Sept. 11 attacks. "The security of our nation and the lives of our citizens depend on our ability to learn what these terrorists know."

The president's speech, his third in a recent series about his campaign against terror, gave him an opportunity to shore up his administration's credentials on national security two months before congressional elections at a time when Americans are growing weary of the war in Iraq.

Democrats, hoping to make the elections a referendum on Bush's policies in Iraq and the war on terror, urged anew that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld be made to step down. The effort went nowhere in the Republican-controlled Senate.

With transfer of the 14 men to Guantanamo, the CIA currently is holding no detainees, Bush said. A senior administration official said the CIA had detained fewer than 100 suspected terrorists in the history of the secret detention program. *AP*

Austria girl held for 8 years thought only of escape

VIENNA—AN AUSTRIAN GIRL held in captivity for eight years told on Wednesday how all she could think of was how to escape but she feared that fleeing might provoke her abductor into killing her in a murder spree.

For the first time since her dash to freedom two weeks ago, 18-year-old Natascha Kampusch spoke about the years of loneliness, hunger and agony that she spent in a cell beneath the garage of Wolfgang Priklopil's house near Vienna.

"I promised myself I would grow older, stronger and sturdier to be able to break free one day," Kampusch said in her first television interview, looking fragile but composed and confident despite her ordeal and the subsequent media frenzy.

"I made a deal with myself that the Natascha of the future would come back to free that little 12-year-old girl," she said in the interview with Austrian television, recorded on Tuesday and aired on Wednesday.

Priklopil locked Kampusch in the windowless cell in his house in Strasshoff, 25 km outside the capital, after abducting her at age 10 on her way to school in 1998.

Kampusch recalled her horror when he made her enter for the first time the small room that would be her home for years.

"It felt very claustrophobic in that small room," said Kampusch, who was short of breath and suffering from a cold.

"I threw water bottles against the walls or banged against them with my fists so that maybe someone could hear me."

"It was harrowing and if he had not taken me up into the house at some point to have a bit more space to move, I think I might have gone crazy."

The details of one of Austria's most notorious crimes have kept the nation spellbound since Kampusch escaped from her abductor while he took a phone call outside his house on Aug. 23. He killed himself shortly after by jumping under a train.

Kampusch explained how she had told her captor that she could no longer exist as she was.

"I told him I could no longer live this way," she said. "I told him I would certainly attempt to escape."

Strands of blonde hair were showing from under a pink and purple scarf, which advisers told her to wear to give her greater options should she want to change how she looks to avoid media publicity.

The young woman described how she felt sorry for Priklopil's mother and that she knew what would happen once she escaped.

"I was fully aware that my escape would also be his death sentence because he always threatened me with suicide," she said. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel to lift Lebanon blockade

JERUSALEM—Israel will lift its air and sea blockade of Lebanon at 1500 GMT Thursday (11 p.m. in Manila), having received international assurances over an arms embargo on Hezbollah, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office announced. "US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, last night and this morning informed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that international forces are ready to take up control positions over Lebanons seaports and airports," said an English-language statement from the office. "Therefore, it was agreed that tomorrow at 18:00 (local time), Israel will leave the aforesaid control positions and, at the same time, the international forces will enter," it said. Israel imposed a blockade on Lebanon on July 13 when it bombed the runways of Beirut international airport, one day after launching a massive offensive on the Shiite militant group Hezbollah. The Jewish state has kept up the restrictions despite widespread international protests and the start of a UN-brokered ceasefire on Aug. 14. *AFP*

Awareness in vegetative-state patient

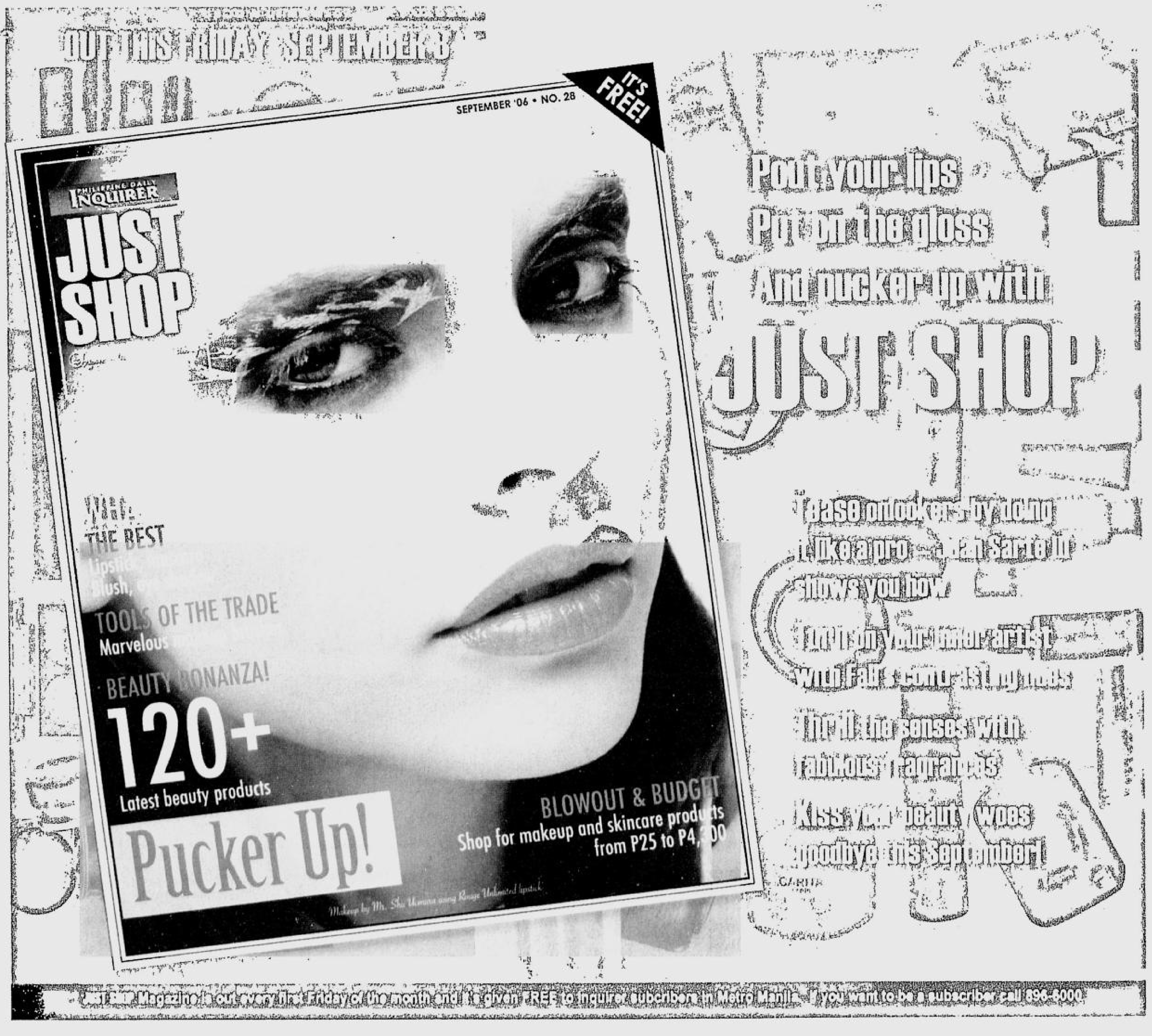
WASHINGTON—A car crash severely injured the woman's brain, leaving her in a vegetative state. But British scientists found startling signs of awareness when they peered deeper into her brain: She seemed to hear and follow—mentally—certain commands. This novel brain-scanning experiment, reported Thursday, is sure to elicit pleas from families desperate to know if loved ones deemed beyond medical help have brain activity that doctors didn't suspect. It's far too soon to raise those hopes, the British researchers and US doctors stress. There's no way to know if this woman ever will recover, and therefore if her brain activity means anything medically. Nor can many hospitals perform this type of brain imaging. But the study does raise calls for more research into one of medicine's ethical minefields—because it raises the tantalizing prospect of one day being able to predict whose brain is most likely to recover and maybe even tailoring rehabilitation. *AP*

Another bird flu death in Indonesia

JAKARTA—Indonesia confirmed Thursday another person had died of bird flu as the nation hardest-hit by H5N1 continues to battle a disease that experts fear could one day spark a global pandemic. Indonesia's 47th fatality from the virus was a woman called Akira from South Sulawesi province, said Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari, adding that infected birds had been found dead in the same area. Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is grappling with ongoing outbreaks of H5N1, which has infected 61 people to date, 47 of them with fatal consequences. *AFP*

Alcoholism linked to womb exposure

NEW YORK—Women who drink during pregnancy may be setting up their offspring for later problems, it seems. Young adults who were exposed to alcohol before they were born are at increased risk for developing an alcohol disorder, according to a report in the Archives of General Psychiatry. These results suggest that it is not just environmental factors, such as exposure to parents' drinking and smoking during childhood and adolescence, that determine a person's risk of alcohol disorders in adulthood, the authors note. The findings suggest there is also a biologic origin for such disorders. *Reuters*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JUVIC Pagunsan tees off on No. 17. AFP

Pagunsan's 67 paces Singapore Open

SINGAPORE—DEFENDING CHAMPION Adam Scott overcame searing heat to lurk three behind the leaders with Ernie Els a shot further back after the opening round of the $3 million Singapore Open Thursday.

World No.5 Scott birdied two of the last three holes to keep the pressure on surprise leaders Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines and fellow Aussie Scott Strange, who set the pace with blistering four-under-par 67s on the tough Serapong course.

Strange, who won the Philippine Open at Wack Wack last May, had nines of 36-31 while Pagunsan, who turned pro early this year after a distinguished amateur career, shot four birdies in a 34-33 round at the par-71 (36-35) layout.

Jyoti Randhawa of India was a stroke off the leaders with a 68. Shingo Katayama of Japan, Argentina's Angel Cabrera and Australia's Nick O'Hern are among a pack on 69.

Two other Filipinos emerged in contention as Angelo Que and Gerard Rosales shot 70s while the country's No. 1, Frankie Miñoza, carded a 73 on a round of four birdies and six bogeys.

Tony Lascuña, the only Filipino survivor of the two-day qualifying, floundered however with an 81.

Els struggled to recover from a double bogey at the start but remains in the hunt for his first victory since last December after firing a 71.

"It was tough conditions out there with the long rough," said Scott.

"You just can't miss the fairways and it is not easy to get going unless you are hitting a lot of good shots. It really is amazing how humid it is here, but I am happy with one under."

Many of the star names drafted into the $3-million co-sanctioned tournament were hampered by the humid conditions and long rough which punished anyone missing the fairway.

Former US Open champion Michael Campbell carded a 72 while European Ryder Cup stars Lee Westwood and Paul McGinley went round in 73 and 76, respectively.

Els opened with a birdie but followed it with a double bogey then a bogey and was happy to get back in the clubhouse even par.

Strange, a regular on the Asian Tour, holed four birdies on the homeward nine to share the lead with Pagunsan, who only turned professional earlier this year.

Westwood, who was controversially handed a Ryder Cup wildcard by captain Ian Woosnam ahead of Thomas Bjorn, is keen for a solid performance here to justify his selection, but found the putts just wouldn't drop.

"I'm still in there. If you play well, you're capable of shooting 67 or 66 here," he said. *AFP*

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Unscathed Django, Reyes lead 7 Filipinos to last 36

THE BALLS KEEP ON FALLING FOR Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the 2006 World Open 8-ball International Pool Tour.

Bustamante again swept his assignments Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) to notch his 13th straight win and tow six other Filipinos into the next round of the $3 million event being held at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

Other Filipinos who advanced in the top 36 and also assured themselves of at least $25,000 (P1.25 million) each were Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes, Dennis Orcollo, Ronato Alcano, Antonio Lining, Jose "Amang" Parica and 2004 World Pool titlist Alex Pagulayan, who was beaten (8-4) by Bustamante in the third round.

Only the United States has more qualifier than the Philippines with nine survivors.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, a former world No. 1, nipped Furuta Kazuo (8-6) of Japan, routed Tony Chohan (8-0) and beat Jason Kirkwood (8-5) of the United States to top Group 66.

Pagulayan advanced to the next round as No. 2 despite posting a 2-2 win-loss-record.

After losing to Bustamante and Jason Kirkwood (8-6) of the US, Pagulayan, the 2006 BSCP National Championships winner, bested Tony Chohan (8-6) of the US and Furuta Kazuo (8-3) of Japan.

Three other Filipinos—Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego and Canada-based Edwin Montal—fell by the wayside with 1-win 3-loss cards. They settled for $15,000 (P750,000) each.

REYES: Beats Johnny Archer en route

The 52-year-old Reyes whipped five-time world champion Johnny Archer (8-5) of the US and Yannick Beaufifuls (8-5) of France before bowing to Daryl Peach (8-5) of the United Kingdom. Reyes bounced back with an 8-2 demolition of Briton Jayson Shaw to rule Group 70.

The 27-year-old Orcollo bested David Matlock (8-5) of the US and Ralf Souquet (8-4) of Germany but yielded to Marko Lohtander (8-7) of Finland. Orcollo also prevailed over Chris Melling (8-6) of Switzerland.

Souquet topped Group 62 with a higher winning percentage of 63.09 percent as against Orcollo's 61.88 percent. They both tallied 3-1 records.

Calamba City pride Alcano ruled Group 65. He beat Hung Ming Chu (8-6) of China, Darren Appleton (8-7) and Imran Majid (8-5) of Britain, but bowed to Ben Davies (8-6) of Romania.

Lining also shine in Group 67, beating Quinten Hann (8-6) of Australia, Mika Immonen (8-2) of Finland and Tony Robles (8-5) of the US. He yielded to James Walden (8-6) of the US.

Sharing the limelight is the 54-year-old Parica, who led the Filipino invasion of the US pool circuit in the '80s. Parica trounced Nick Van Den Berg (8-7) and Rico Diks (8-5) of Holland and Hui-Kai Hsia (8-6) of Chinese Taipei, but bowed to Oliver Ortman (8-3).

Hsia edged Parica in the tiebreaker to top Group 71.

In the fourth round, Orcollo and Parica are in Group 73 while Reyes winds up in Group 75. Alcano and Pagulayan are in Group 77 while Lining joins Bustamante in Group 78.

Alcano and Pagulayan's brackets are among the toughest since they will have to hurdle former world champ Mika Immonen of Finland, former world trickshot ruler Fabio Petroni of Italy, former US Open titlist Corey Deuel and Larry Nevel of the US. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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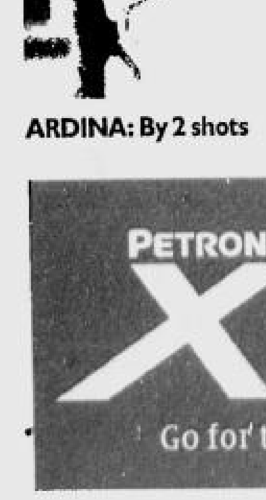

ARDINA: By 2 shots

Ardina wins Indon Open

JAKARTA—DOTTIE ARDINA OUTLASTED Cyna Rodriguez in a final round shootout between two of the Philippines' reigning Junior World champions to capture the Indonesia Ladies Amateur Open crown by two strokes yesterday.

Saving her best for last, the 12-year-old Ardina fired four birdies against three bogeys en route to a one-under-par 71 (35-36), the only sub-par card posted in the 54-hole event at the Padang Golf Pondok Indah Golf Club.

Counting her earlier 79 and 76, Ardina pooled 226. She battled from two strokes down to become the youngest winner in the 28-year history of the tournament.

With the victory, Ardina clinched a spot in the RP team that will vie in next month's World Amateurs, alongside RP Ladies champion Debbie de Villa and Anya Tanpinco.

Rodriguez, tied for the lead with two-time winner Lidya Jaya overnight, closed out with a 75 (228) for runner-up honors.

Bambee dela Paz finished seventh with a 233 after a 78 followed by Crystal Superal (77-235), Mia Piccio (78-238), Tanpinco (79-239), Lora Roberto (79-242), Linnel de Villa (80-248) and Debbie de Villa (81-251).

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Knights, Dolphins clash for No. 2, semis bonus today

SCHEDULE TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Cheering Competition
4 p.m.—Letran vs. Philippine Christian U (playoff)

WHAT DEFENDING CHAMPION LETRAN has been trying to accomplish for the past three games, Philippine Christian U will get a crack on it just once.

The Knights and the Dolphins, who fought for the title last season, dispute the second and last Final Four twice-to-beat incentive today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Letran will try to snap out of a three-game losing spell. Its last defeat, a 54-44 decision from eliminations topnotcher San Beda two days ago, eventually dumped the Knights into this rubber match with the Dolphins set at 4 p.m.

The Dolphins are expected to be in high spirits as they pursue a fourth straight win and big followup to their win over Mapua, the fourth semifinalist, also last Wednesday.

Whoever wins today gets a big plus as it will own the twice-to-win incentive when the two teams collide in the Final Four as the eliminations' No. 2 and No. 3 teams.

Odds are even, however, since both teams split their first two meetings earlier.

It will be San Beda against Mapua in the other Final Four duel.

Letran coach Louie Alas threw a rare fit of anger during their game against San Beda where the Knights led by as many as 12 points before lapsing into a scoreless spell.

"We have to forget what happened and concentrate against PCU," said Alas, who furiously protested the unsportsmanlike foul called on Rafael Jazul on a driving Pong Escobal during the game Wednesday.

Eagles oust Tamaraws; Tigers gain

By Jasmine W. Payo

ADAMSON AND DEFENDING CHAMPION FAR EASTERN NEEDED to overcome frazzled nerves to have a shot at the UAAP Final Four.

Only the Falcons came through.

Turning to their unheralded players in the clutch, the Falcons repulsed the National U Bulldogs, 93-88, to secure their first Final Four stint in the men's basketball tournament yesterday at the PhilSports Arena.

Then the Tamaraws became the first reigning champion to miss the semifinals since the Final Four was introduced, when the league-leading Ateneo Eagles sent them packing with a thrilling 70-68 victory.

Ateneo's win allowed idle Santo Tomas to complete the Final Four cast.

The Falcons and the Tigers, who wound up with similar 6-6 records dispute the No. 3 slot in a playoff Thursday.

The Tamaraws took a three-point advantage in the last 56.9 seconds but the Eagles came up with their never-say-die burst down the wire. Chris Tiu buried a triple that knotted the contest at 68 before JC Intal scored the game-clinching layup off two defenders with only 1.2 ticks left.

The Eagles will battle the fourth-ranked team armed with the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four. The University of the East Warriors, also toting the semifinal bonus, will face the third-seeded squad.

STANDINGS	W	L
*Ateneo	10	1
*Univ of East	7	4
Santo Tomas	6	6
Adamson	6	6
Far Eastern	5	7
Univ of Phils	4	8
National	3	9

*clinched twice-to-beat in the Final Four

GAMES TOMORROW
(*PhilSports Arena*)
10 a.m.—UE vs Ateneo
11:30 a.m.—UST vs FEU
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE
(Seniors)

ATENEO'S J.C. Intal gets past the phalanx of FEU defenders to score the winning basket in yesterday's game. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

ADAMSON 93—Cabahug 23, Bono 19, Pacheco 15, Poloyapoy 10, Yong 9, Hugnatan 7, Agustin 5, Gonzalgo 3, Basilio 2, Santos 0, Orera 0.

NU 88—Fernandez 18, Lingao-Lingao 16, Asoro 13, Malcontento 12, Flor 11, Catamora 9, Garcia 5, Malagueno 2, Jahnke 2, Salamat 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 46-46, 69-74, 93-88

Second Game (Srs)

ATENEO 70—Intal 22, Salamat 12, Escalona 10, Tiu 8, Al-Hussaini 6, Laterre 4, Kramer 4, Arao 4, Reyes 0, Quimson 0.

FEU 68—Chan 24, Baracael 14, Garilla 9, Mangahas 8, Fernandez 7, Villanueva 6, Afable 0, Villanueva 0, Dela Cruz 0, Barcellano 0.

Quarters: 29-26, 46-41, 55-57, 70-68

SECOND SERVING: Romero (left) shames Viloria in their first fight. AP

Romero-Viloria title rematch spices up Pacquiao-Morales III

BRIAN VILORIA FINALLY GETS A chance at redemption.

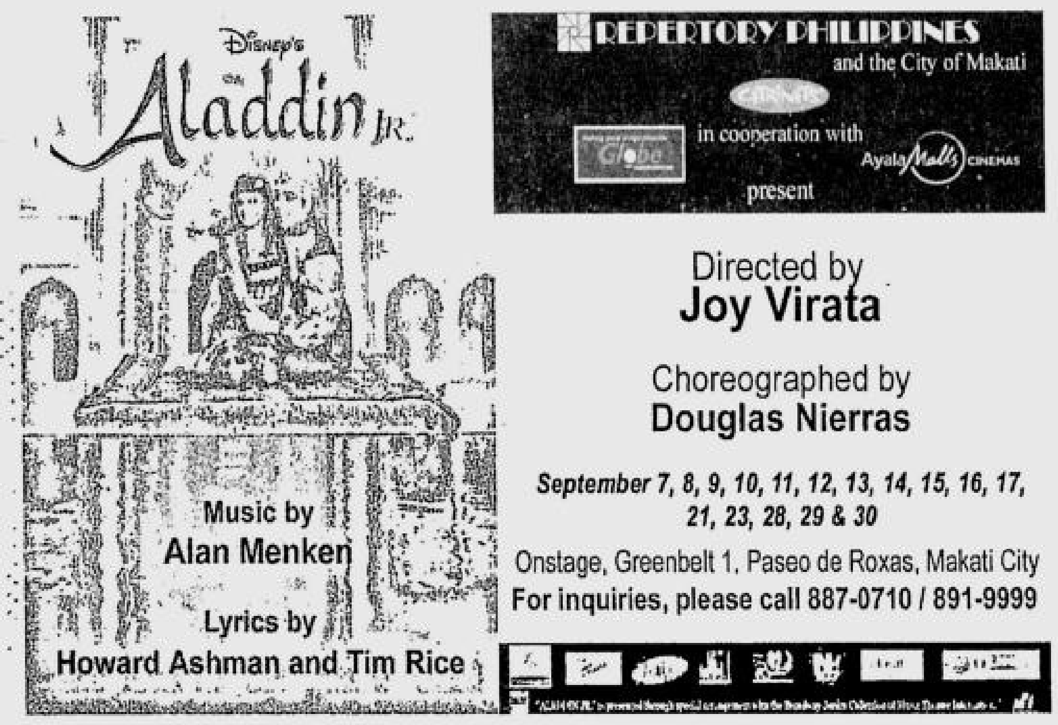
Newly-crowned World Boxing Council light flyweight champion Omar Nino Romero of Mexico has agreed to give Viloria a rematch underneath the big "Grand Finale" card featuring the third clash between Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Mexican promoter Fernando Beltran, who represents Romero, was quoted by the Mexican media yesterday as having approved the Viloria fight during the turnover of the WBC belt to Romero.

Romero welcomed the planned rematch while announcing that "he plans to be a world champion for a long time."

WBC president Jose Sulaiman, who was present at the turnover of the belt to Romero, also declared that his organization will endorse the rematch, as long as it is an "optional defense" for Romero.

Romero pulled off one of the year's biggest boxing upsets last Aug. 10 when he outclassed the then undefeated Fil-American Viloria, who was defending the world title for the second time. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*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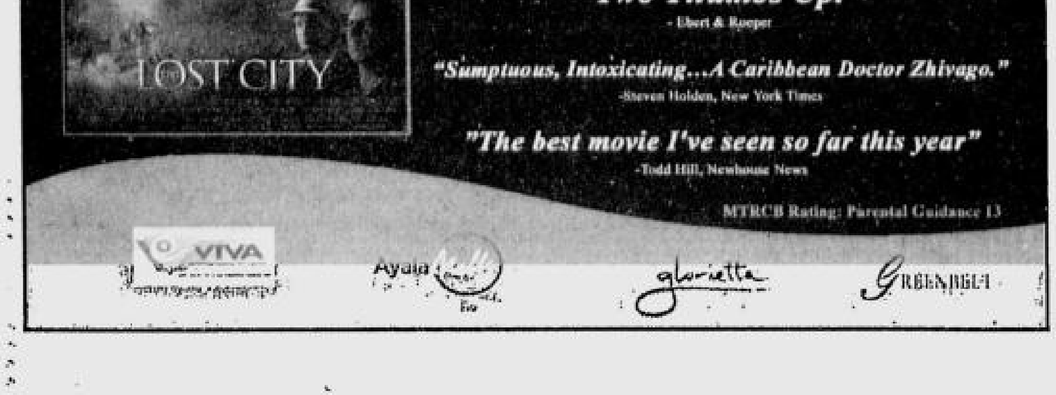
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5th Avenue five routs John O, forges 'rubber'

5TH AVENUE TELECOMS WAXED hot from start to finish to rout John O, 80-52, last Tuesday and extend to the limit their best-of-three series for the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball crown at the Lyceum gym.

Mark Yee and Al Vergara sparked 5th Avenue's vengeful comeback from its Game 1 loss by scoring 17 and 12 points, respectively.

The two teams were disputing the title at presstime last night.

5th Avenue's tight defense limited John O's leading scorers Nino Marquez, Billy Moody and Marlon Legaspi to 11, 9 and 5 points, respectively.

The Telecommunicators blew the game wide open at the turn, 55-34, and increased their lead to 24 at 65-42.

The scores:

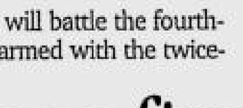
5TH AVENUE 80—Yee 17, Vergara 12, Magpayo 12, Dela Cuesta 11, Zagala 8, Espiritu 5, Mamaclay 5, Buenaventura 4, Alfad 4, Dulias 2.

JOHN O 52—Marquez 11, De Guia 11, Moddy 9, Sta. Cruz 8, Legaspi 5, De Castro 4, Buenafe 2, Zablan 2.

Quarters: 29-20, 55-34, 65-41, 80-52

RP darters seek Aspac title

THE PHILIPPINE DARTS TEAM WILL shoot for the overall title when the six-day World Darts Federation Asia-Pacific Cup XIII 2006 unfolds on Sept. 19 at the Grand Season Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Lawyer Andrew L. Arrieta, president of the Darts Council of the Philippines (DCP), said the RP team is a strong favorite to win the overall title in the region's biggest dart tournament. "Our team will go all out to win the gold as Aspac overall champions," Arrieta said. The RP team ruled the biennial event in 1992, 1994, 1996, as well as the four-man team and the women's doubles events in 2006. This year's RP men's team is made up of Jojo Barellano of Davao City, Arby Briones of Baguio City, Lorence Ilagan of Pasay and Bobby Concepcion of Makati City. Ann Awitan of Cagayan de Oro City and Rose Noble of Makati City comprise the women's team.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Issue (1), Morning Glory (3), Gentleman's Lady (5), Heart of Soul (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Magic Bullet (2), Earth Angel (3), The Strategist (1), Habagat (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—District Three (1), Bull Rider (7), Gin Dancer (6), Cognac Mommet (8)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Somos O No Somos (1), Dixie Dash (4), Idol (8), X Virgin Island (7), Nittry Gritty (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Reporter (7), Uncle Buck (6), Real Tough (8), Prime Enforcer (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Pride and Joy (2), Penny Wise (5), Sweet Connections (1), Cebuana Spell (6)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Jayvie's Godfather (4), Head Turner (6), Doma G Gelay (7), Lucky Strike (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—No Fear (7), Please Do (4), Qui Paris (3), Dark Desert (6), Summer Gear (2)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Magpakailanman (6), Ayan Na Ko (8), Flaming Heart (4), Luck of the Irish (2), Bull Rock/Kim Possible (3), Step on The Gas (5)

SPORTSWATCH

Franzia B'minton Smash up

THE FIRST FRANZIA BADMINTON SMASH, "SERVE IT UP!" gets going on Sept. 9 and 10 at the Yonex Philippines Badminton Club in Mandaluyong City. The winners and runner-up pairs in men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles in the tournament that uses the Rally Point 21 system will receive trophies and cash prizes. Players will bring home a 3-Liter bag-in-box Franzia wine. The event is presented by Franzia and Fly Ace Corp., a leading importer-distributor of food and beverage products. For inquiries, call 245-5126 local 207.

90 fights in Pasay stagfest

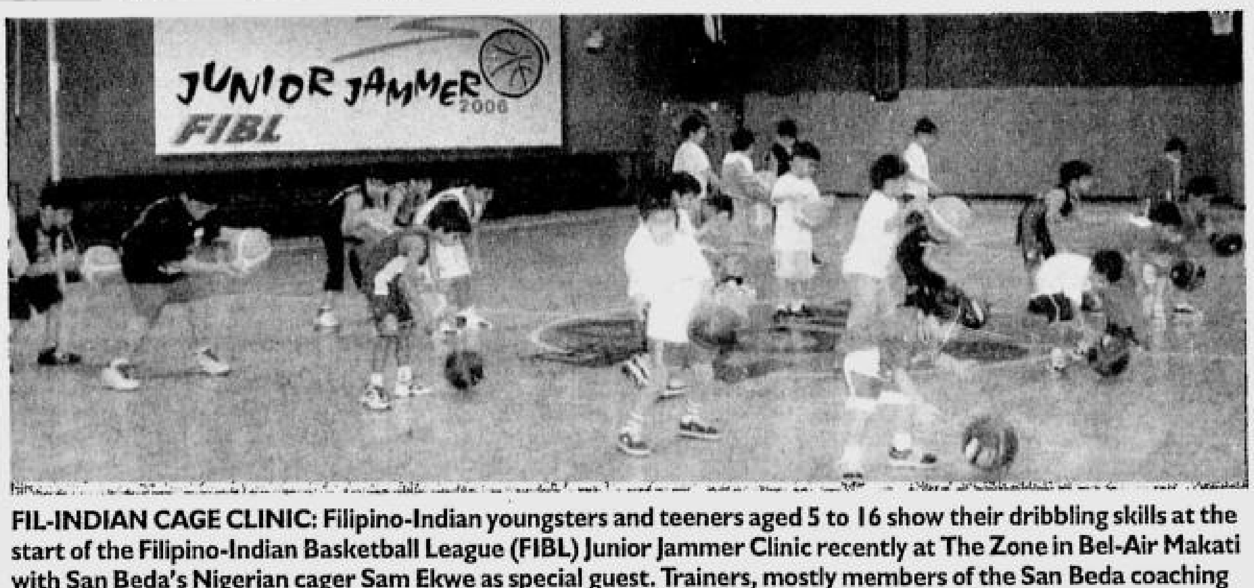
A SPECIAL 4-STAG DERBY FEATURING 90 FIGHTS kick off at 3 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Host Ramon Mancenares of Bacolod has invited derby regulars such as Ric de Guzman, Gov. Ito Ynares, Gerry Ramos, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Pol Estrellado, Dodie Villarubio, Nene Aguilar, Danny Alejo, Muroy Dolorico, Magno Lim, Odie Fausto of Cagayan, Jet and Joel Fernando, Madlambayan Brothers, boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, Pepito Ngo, Tonton Uy and Lito Roque. The victors will win P300,000. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816- 6750.

Pampanga stag derby today

AN INTERESTING SHOWDOWN BETWEEN COCKers from Metro Manila and Central Luzon begins at 2 p.m. today at the Bacolor Cockpit Arena in Pampanga via the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 5- stag derby. Eighty-five 85 matches are on tap in the derby backed by Thunderbird, Lakpue, Asvet, Purina, B- Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. The event is part of LGBA's stag series for 2006. Meanwhile, the team of Boy Gamilla, Mimi Itchon, Raffy Campos and Edwin Aranez (BMJ DMCA Red), topped the LGBA 5-stag derby Tuesday at the Malvar Sports Complex in Malvar, Batangas.

Fastest Win event at SJC on

SMALL-TIME COCKERS FROM MANDALUYONG, San Juan, Pasig, Tagig, Pateros and Makati take a shot at the P100,000 prize in the "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" starting at 11 a.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum. Hosts Renato Shio and Ronnie Lacsina said the fastest-win champion will get P50,000; second, P25,000; third, P10,000 and fourth to sixth, P5,000. Entry fee is P1,100. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.



FIL-INDIAN CAGE CLINIC: Filipino-Indian youngsters and teeners aged 5 to 16 show their dribbling skills at the start of the Filipino-Indian Basketball League (FIBL) Junior Jammer Clinic recently at The Zone in Bel-Air Makati with San Beda's Nigerian cager Sam Ekwe as special guest. Trainers, mostly members of the San Beda coaching staff, are supervising the program for more than 70 participants the eight-week long basketball program.

Near La Salle sweep in 7th Interschool golf

LA SALLE WON MOST OF THE TEAM AND individual titles disputed as expected but was denied a sweep by School of Tomorrow yesterday in the seventh Samsung Interscholastic Golf Championship at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

The Greenies won the three divisions in boys' play (college, high school and elementary), all in runaway fashion, with Miko Yee capping his team's overpowering show by coasting to his third straight overall individual title.

Yee, together with Allan Guy, Marvin Mendoza, Joseph Uy and Ryan Ongtenco, bagged the overall team award for La Salle Green Hills with a 39-point win over Ateneo in the high school division.

Justin Limjap, Chuckie Hong, Marlo Capinianes, Marco Olives and Vruno Villanueva took the boys' college crown for La Salle-Taft, which beat Ateneo by 22 points, and AR Ramos, Miggy Yee, JP de Claro, Justin Dy and GJ Katigbak completed the romp by ruling the elementary crown by 28 points, also over Ateneo.

Yee closed out with 54 points for the overall title, finishing 11 ahead of Limjap, who later on beat La Salle teammate Hong in a playoff in their division. Ramos nipped Miggy Yee by one, 133-132, for the grade school individual plum.

Regine de Guzman scored 55 points and Sunshine Baraquiel made 55 as School of Tomorrow averted a La Salle sweep by ruling the girls' high school-college play, 312-300. Masters Academy was unchallenged in the girls' elementary play.

De Guzman also claimed the individual title, beating Geleen Handog in a playoff. Handog scored 51 and wound up tied with De Guzman 159 in regulation play.

Also capturing individual trophies were Ateneo's Marcel Puyat in high school, Maan Legaspi of Masters Academy in girls' elementary and Ryan Monsalve and Daniella Uy in the special division.

NGAP comes to Jayvie's aid

Officials may reserve RP slot for 'sacked' golfer

By Musong R. Castillo

AGOJO: Family told through e-mail

THE NATIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION of the Philippines was not informed about the "sacking" of Jayvie Agojo from the national training pool for the Asian Games and the World Amateur but it will, nonetheless, try to save a slot for her in the RP team.

Secretary general Jun Galindez said that the NGAP had learned of the development only from the INQUIRER report yesterday, but said that president Leandro Mendoza "will talk to (golf godfather) Ricky Razon as soon as possible."

Mendoza, also the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, is reportedly in Guimaras.

"The NGAP was never notified," Galindez said in Filipino. "Bong (Lopez, the man in charge of the ICTSI-funded training program) never told us anything about this."

Agojo, the former RP Ladies' champ who is on a golf scholarship at Pepperdine University in the US, was dropped from the roster recently by Lopez, who informed her family through an e-mail.

Lopez is due to arrive today from Jakarta, where he joined members of the RP team in the Indonesian Open.

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia said that the Agojo case was a sad development, but maintained that, in the end, "it will only be the NGAP which can name members of the RP team to any international event."

The INQUIRER sought comment from Agojo's father Jun but he begged off, saying he is already preparing a letter for Razon to air his side on the matter.

Lopez, according to an INQUIRER source, had decided to drop Agojo from the pool as a disciplinary measure.

Sources said Agojo's failure to stay in the official quarters and join in team practices, as well as her father's failure to comply with the pool's no parents-allowed policy (which prohibits parents from joining the members of the pool during training) led to her dismissal.

CEU makes Final 4 bus over SSC-R

EDDIE CAMACHO AND JERIC MAGNO combined for 32 points as Centro Escolar upset league-leader STI, 68-64, at the UM gym yesterday to complete the Final Four cast of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament.

Camacho hit 17 points, while Magno added 15 for the Scorpions, who dictated the pace from the start. They joined early qualifiers STI, AMA Computer and New Era in the semifinals.

CEU and first-round leader San Sebastian-Cavite actually wound up with similar 8-6 cards, but the Scorpions clinched the last semifinal slot by virtue of a second-round win over the Bay Cats, who defaulted five games in the second stage of eliminations.

The STI Olympians, who finished the eliminations with an 11-3 card, appeared to be saving their energy for the Final Four which starts tomorrow at the Rizal Coliseum. They will again face the Scorpions, but this time holding a twice-to-beat advantage.

AMA will take on New Era with the Titans enjoying the twice-to-beat incentive as the No. 2 team in the eliminations.

The Titans earlier downed defending champion University of Manila, 76-71.

FED GOLF

Big triumphs by Alabang, Southwoods

STANDINGS (win-loss-draw-points)

Group 1: Orchard 3-1-1-7, Forest Hills 2-0-2-6, Wack Wack 2-1-1-5, Eastridge 1-2-2-5, Riviera 0-3-2-2

Group 2: Sherwood Hills 4-0-1-10, Southwoods 3-1-1-9, Valley 2-3-0-4, Camp John Hay 0-2-1-1, Sta. Elena 0-3-1-1,

Group 3: Alabang 2-1-2-7, Northwoods 2-1-1-6, Canlubang 1-1-3-5, CDC-Mimosa 2-3-0-4, , Highlands 1-2-2-4

ALABANG AND MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOT bonus points after routing their respective rivals even as Sherwood Hills was forced to a draw by Sta. Elena in the 2006 Federation Golf League matches held in various venues recently.

The tandems of Caloy Coscolluela-Juan Ibazeta, Edwin Arcilla-Sengyo Kato, Seve Roxas Chua-Jimbo Inigo and King Stehmeier-Carlo Magno all won their matches for Alabang's 4-0 sweep of Mimosa that pushed them on top of Group 3.

Alabang's second win in five games boosted it ahead of idle Royal Northwoods with 7 points.

Southwoods also scored a big win, moving closer to sister team Sherwood Hills with its 3.5-0.5 manhandling of Valley.

Mike Bibat-Jed Rosero, Florene delos Santos-Ferdie Agustin and Richie Santos-Tony Fernando prevailed while Marcel Puyat-Eugene Arresgado settled for a draw for Southwoods which raised its total to 9 points on a 3-1-1 record.

League-leading Sherwood Hills barely escaped its first loss, taking advantage of a rules violation by Sta. Elena to salvage a draw.

Sta. Elena actually had scored a 3-1 win but the result was changed to 2-2 when it was discovered that it lacked a Class B player on the roster that played Sherwood.

Sherwood retained leadership with 10 points in five games while Sta. Elena finally earned its first point after three straight defeats.

Tagaytay Highlands also broke into the win column in Group 3, beating Canlubang, 3-1, on wins by Harold Fernandez-Jerome Velasco, Greg Yang-Pepe Lim and Jenz Tecson-Don Martin Fernandez.

In Group 1 action, Orchard's Wolen Superal-Sherwin Ferrer, Jaye Escuadro-Aian Arcilla and Francis Montallana-Raymond Sangil won their matches in a 3-1 conquest of Wack Wack.

Orchard wrested lead with 7 points with its third win, up by one on Forest Hills. Eastridge is third with 5 points after a 2-2 draw with Riviera.

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MIKHAIL Youzhny makes a diving return against Rafael Nadal. AP

Youzhny stuns Nadal; Federer sails through

NEW YORK—SECOND SEED RAFAEL NADAL WAS BUNDLED OUT of the US Open on Wednesday, denying New Yorkers the chance of a third straight grand slam final between the Spaniard and Swiss maestro Roger Federer.

Top seed and world number one Federer held up his side of the bargain with a 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 fourth-round victory over 79th-ranked Marc Gicquel, of France, but Nadal was bounced, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6, 6-1, by an inspired Mikhail Youzhny in the quarterfinals.

The unseeded Russian, ranked 54, continuously hit out from both wings, putting Nadal on the defensive and setting up angles for winners.

He found the mark with amazing consistency, cracking 49 winners against just 23 for Nadal, who lost a golden chance to seize the edge in the third set before being trampled in the finishing set.

"It was a very tough match," Youzhny said after his three-hour 16-minute victory. "I can't believe I beat Rafael in four sets."

"I think it was one of the best matches in my career."

Youzhny's victory lifted him to his first grand slam semifinal, where he will face 2003 champion Andy Roddick, an emphatic 6-3 7-5 6-4 winner against 2001 titlist Lleyton Hewitt.

The 20-year-old lefthander, gracious in defeat, said he had played his best tennis of the tournament despite falling to the Russian.

"Maybe I play my best match in New York here today," Nadal said. "My best tennis. Youzhny was playing unbelievable tennis."

Nadal had been hoping to reach his first US Open final for a possible third successive grand slam final showdown against world number one Roger Federer, whom he beat in the Roland Garros final before falling to the Swiss star at Wimbledon.

Federer took his next step toward claiming a third straight US Open title by joining women's top seed Amelie Mauresmo in posting straight-sets wins at Flushing Meadows.

The top seed blasted 15 aces and had 42 winners in his win but Gicquel produced a respectable showing by committing only 22 unforced errors, seven fewer than the Swiss.

Federer will play fifth-seeded American James Blake, a 6-4 6-3 6-1 winner against 12th seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic.

Federer won the first three games against Gicquel without losing a point.

Youzhny pulled off his shocker with a turnabout in the third set when Nadal looked poised to grab a two sets to one lead.

The Russian battled back from 0-40 to save three set points, one when Nadal slammed an easy forehand putaway into the net.

In other matches, Russian Nikolay Davydenko completed a rain-delayed 6-1 5-7 6-3 6-0 fourth-round victory over British teenager Andy Murray, while 14th seed Tommy Haas edged former champion Marat Safin, Safina's brother, 4-6 6-3 2-6 6-2 7-6. *Reuters*

MARIA Sharapova plays a shot to Tatiana Golovin during their quarterfinal match. REUTERS

Sharapova forges duel vs Mauresmo

NEW YORK—HER SHOTS SPARKling as much as her silver sneakers, Maria Sharapova gritted her way to yet another Grand Slam semifinal.

Sharapova defeated 27th-seeded Tatiana Golovin, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (0), in a US Open quarterfinal that lasted more than two hours Wednesday night, setting up a showdown with No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo.

"She's the one to beat right now," Sharapova said. "I feel like I have nothing to lose."

Sharapova's victory came in straight sets, but it was anything but easy. She played superb defense for long stretches, even resorting to a left-handed shot to keep a point going.

She was broken in each of her first two service games, and fought off two set points while trailing 6-5 in the opener. Then she overcame a concentration lapse after a trainer attended to Golovin for a big blister on the bottom of her right foot, and recovered again after getting broken while serving for the match at 5-3 in the second.

Sharapova's father, Yuri, kept a close eye on all the proceedings. He appeared to signal Sharapova at one point by pulling a banana out of his bag; shortly thereafter, she pulled out a piece of fruit and ate it.

The first set alone lasted 1:18, more than Mauresmo's entire 6-2, 6-3 victory over No. 12 Dinara Safina.

The other semifinal will be No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne against No. 19 Jelena Jankovic.

Lindsay Davenport exited her 16th US Open with a quarterfinal loss to Henin-Hardenne and a quick walk off court. No on-court interview. No glance around the stadium. No moment of soaking it all in. No opportunity for a prolonged "Thank you and goodbye" from the fans of the sort lavished on Andre Agassi.

Then again, who's to say how many more US Opens are left for Davenport? She's certainly unsure.

Davenport, at 30 the oldest female quarterfinalist, first broached the possibility of retirement more than two years ago, but she also knows she's capable of playing well enough to contend on tour. So she answered simply, "I don't know," when asked whether she'll be back at the Open.

"I still feel like I would have beaten most players today," Davenport said after bowing out 6-4, 6-4 to Henin-Hardenne in a match between two women who used to be ranked No. 1 and have won this tournament.

For Sharapova, what's next is her seventh semifinal appearance in the past 10 Grand Slam tournaments, a streak that dates to her 2004 Wimbledon championship.

She appeared to be in trouble in the first set's 12th game, but one set point was erased when Golovin shanked a return, and the other when a 14-stroke exchange ended with Golovin sailing a backhand long.

Sharapova makes about $20 million (euro15.6 million) a year from sponsorship deals. *AP*

Jones gets cleared of doping charges

LOS ANGELES—TRIPLE OLYMPIC champion Marion Jones has been cleared of potential doping charges for use of EPO after the "B" sample analysis of her test was negative, a statement issued by her attorney said Wednesday.

"I am absolutely ecstatic," Jones said in a statement released by her attorneys after she had been informed of the negative backup sample testing results Wednesday.

"I have always maintained that I have never, ever taken performance enhancing drugs, and I am pleased that a scientific process has now demonstrated that fact. I am anxious to get back on the track."

Jones' "A" sample from the US Track and Field Championships on June 23 in Indianapolis, where she won the 100 meters, had been reported positive for the banned endurance-booster EPO.

Jones, who has vehemently denied ever using performance enhancing drugs, said when she learned of that result in August that she was "shocked." *AFP*

ONE-LEG WONDER: China's Bin Hou competes at the high jump class F42, amputees, at the World Championships Athletics for athletes with disabilities in Assen, Netherlands, Wednesday. AP

Johnny-less Tigers clobber Phone Pals

THE COCA-COLA TIGERS SEEM to be moving on well without the leadership of Johnny Abbarientos.

The new-look team that coach Binky Favis built around a bunch of young and hardworking guys routed Jimmy Alapag and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 81-113, last night in the PBA Pre Season Mini Tournament at the Chiang Kai Shel Gym.

Rookie Joseph Yeo, the No. 3 pick overall, scored 19 points that went with his six rebounds and seven assists to lead the Tigers.

Will Antonio tallied 17 points and Allan Salansang added 14 for Coca Cola which outrebounded TNT, 53-47.

The Tigers dominated their opponents with a lot of hustle, good ball movement and strong rebounding in a game that also showcased tough defense from both teams.

"I'm very impressed with the way we're performing in the tournament," said Favis. "They may be young but they are stars in their own right.

"This team has yet to mature," said Fabis. "But we expect the guys to blossom sooner than later. Fabis added that Abbarientos' spot in the team remains uncertain. Abbarientos' contract expires at the end of the month.

The scores:

COKE 113—Yeo 19, Antonio 17, Pacana 15, Salansang 14, Rañeses 13, Miranda 13, Rodriguez 8, Peek 6, Misolas 5, Gavino 3.

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Aldave 14, Alonzo 11, Washington 11, Sanz 11, Daa 10, Cardona 10, Alapag 10, Fran 2, Hardine 2.

Quarters: 23-13; 43-33; 74-54; 113-82

NESTLE Philippines regional sales manager Trina Abola (left), leg winner Angelito Sibayan and Butuan City sports chief Councilor Randolf Plaza during the awarding rites of the 30th National Milo Marathon in Butuan City last Sunday.

Milo marathon swings back to West Visayas

AFTER VISITING BUTUAN CITY, action for this year's Milo Marathon shifts back to Western Visayas in Iloilo City this Sunday.

Like last Sunday's event where the Butuanons, led by City Mayor Democrito Plaza and City Sports council head Councilor Randolf Plaza, trooped to the Butuan Rizal Park to join and watch the elimination run, Iloilo City organizers promise another big cast for the race serving as the 18th leg of the 30-leg series.

Around 6,000 runners are expected for the event being held nationwide in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

City Mayor Jery Trenas who is also the president of the League of City Mayors, has thrown the full support of the city behind the event through the Iloilo Sports Council headed by Councilor Joe III Espinosa who will fire the starting gun from the Freedom Grandstand.

According to local organizer Rommel Castro of Iloilo City's youth and sports division, Congressman Raul Gonzalez Jr. together with councilors JamJam Baronda, Stevie Rey Abitang and Armand Parcon will join the 5K run.

A total of P159,000 will be at stake for the 21K elimination run, 5K fun run, kiddies 3K run, inter school running team, cheer dance and biggest delegation.

World basketball: US still the team to beat

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS A BASKETBALL FAN MYSELF, I SAY THE United States—despite finishing only third in the last Fiba World Championship in Japan—is still a clear choice to win next year's Tournament of the Americas in Venezuela and qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

And based on that sad experience, there is no question that head coach Mike Krzyzewski will tap the services of new faces from among his pool of 24 players—most of whom are from the National Basketball Association—who have made a three-year pledge to play together in their quest to regain lost prestige.

"We lost the gold, but we're coming back with our respect," said marquee player Dwyane Wade, who led the Miami Heat to the NBA championship last June. "We're coming back and try to win in 2007. We're not crying over losing."

Ideally, next year's US team could feature good outside shooters like Kobe Bryant and Allen Iverson (to beef up the team's perimeter shooting) and tall men who could also score in the mold of Shaquille O'Neal, Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett, Tracy McGrady and Ben Wallace. In my view, these new additions could very well provide the capable support act to co-captain LeBron James, scoring leader Carmelo Anthony and hard-fighting Dwyane Wade.

In next year's Olympic qualifier, the US will be pitting cage savvy against powerhouse teams such as reigning Olympic champion Argentina, which won the inaugural World Basketball Championship in Buenos Aires in 1950; two-time world cham-pion Brazil (1959 and 1963); Puerto Rico, which beat the US in the 2004 Athens Olympics; and host Venezuela. The Americans, by the way, have won only three times in 15 World Basketball Championships, namely in 1954 when the Philippines finished a record-setting third; in 1986 and 1994.

So what's the World Basketball Championship?

The World Basketball Championship was conceived during the 1948 London Olympic Games. Given the task of handling the quadrennial tournament was the International Basketball Federation (Fiba). During a Fiba congress, three major decisions were made, to wit: the establishment of the Fiba headquarters in Europe; the organization of a world championship for men which later led to the creation of the inaugural world championship for women in Chile in 1953; and the organization of zone and continental championships.

The first championship was held at the ancient Luna Park Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1950, with 10 teams competing. The first point was scored by N. Popovic of Yugoslavia during the Yugoslavia-Peru game.

Host Argentina, playing before a sea of local fans, won the crown, beating the United States. The victory touched off a nationwide celebration compared to the jubilation when the country won the World Cup of football. The second world cagefest was held in 1954 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where, as I have mentioned earlier, the Philippines achieved its memorable third-place finish. It was there when the US won its first of only three world titles.

The third world championship in 1959 was won by Brazil; the fourth in 1963, also won by Brazil; the fifth in 1967 by the Soviet Union; the sixth in 1970 by Yugoslavia; the seventh in 1974 by the Soviet Union; the eighth in 1978 by Yugoslavia; the ninth in 1982 by the Soviet Union; the 10th in 1986 by the US; the 11th in 1990 by Yugoslavia; the 12th in 1994 by the US; the 13th in 1998 by Yugoslavia; the 14th in 2002 by Serbia and Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia); and the 15th in 2006 by Spain.

During the seventh world championship in 1974 in Puerto Rico, the Fiba granted the Philippines the right to host the 1978 world tourney after its initial bid to host it on 1962 was reduced to a mere invitational due to a political blunder.

* * *

BRIEFLY NOTED. Rich Alvarez, recovering from an arm injury, will return to action in October, according to Red Bull team manager Tony Chua… Purefoods Chunkee mentor Ryan Gregorio and Purefoods governor Rene Pardo have been named Coach of the Year and Executive of the Year, respectively, by the PBA Press Corps. They will receive their awards tomorrow night at Kamayan-Padre Faura… Barangay Ginebra, according to the experts, is the team to beat in this season's PBA cage wars which fire off on Oct. 1. Other teams to reckon with because of their intact lineups and experience are San Miguel Beer and Red Bull Barako… The late Steve Irwin, known around the word as "The Crocodile Hunter," was a one-time Philippine visitor. He had filmed a documentary on the rare Palawan croc which was shown on cable TV. We mourn his untimely death.

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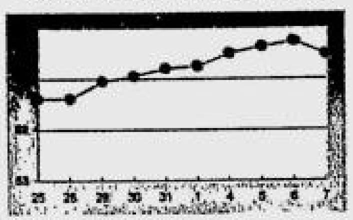

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2006

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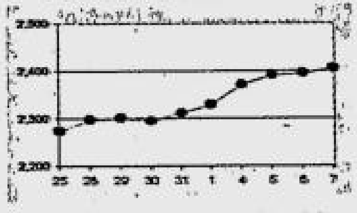
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 0.38% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.38 percent higher, extending gains to a sixth day on the back of an improved economic and fiscal outlook, dealers said.

They said said the benchmark index stayed above the key 2,400 level for most of the session, reflecting positive sentiment among investors and growing confidence that there are more gains to come.

The composite index was up 9.05 points at 2,405.25 after trading between 2,396.20 and 2,411.38. Volume was 2.38 billion shares worth P1.79 billion ($35.8 million).

The broader all-shares index rose 6.92 points to 1,489.51. Gainers beat losers 49 to 44, with 62 stocks unchanged. The peso was at 50.33 to the dollar.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone rose P10 to P2,005 and conglomerate Ayala Corp advanced P7.50 to P477.50.

San Miguel Corp's A and B shares ended steady at P65 and P71, respectively. *AFP*

GMA program spells untimely demise of microfinance

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE PREVAILING FEAR AMONG MANY TECHnocrats in government is that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is reviving state-administered loan subsidy programs to boost its chances in next year's national and local elections.

Nowhere is this fear felt more keenly than at the Department of Finance where middle managers work constantly to find ways to increase the government's revenues through the difficult work of tax administration.

Naturally, these very same officials will want to ensure that the taxes they raise are spent well.

Thus, the shock waves were felt most keenly at the finance department when the President lifted the ban on cheap loans through government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs).

The ban was imposed by Ms Arroyo's predecessor Joseph Estrada.

Interviewed about the President's controversial Executive Order No. 558, Finance Secretary Margarito G. Teves was hard pressed to justify the policy, stressing that the full implications of the order have yet to be digested.

"I still have to talk to the President about it," he said.

Teves, who also heads the National Credit Council in his capacity as finance secretary, served as secretary general of the Economic Coordinating Council during the Estrada administration—the body that formulated the ban on cheap and behest loans, as a counterweight to some of the former President's perceived cronies.

A consensus builder who rarely speaks out openly against Palace policy, Teves' unease about being quizzed on EO 558 was palpable.

Left in the cold

"Maybe something can still be done about it," Teves said, or at the very least, safeguards

GMA PROGRAM/ B2

At $21.4B, GIR hits all-time high

Forex reserves seen to cover 4 months of imports, payments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES climbed to an all-time high of $21.43 billion at the end of August, from $21.27 billion in July, as money from external borrowings tempered outflows that went to debt servicing.

"The GIR level was boosted mainly by the national government's deposit of the proceeds from the re-opening of its global bonds," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said. "Part of the inflows, however, was used to finance [the government's] debt service payments on its foreign currency obligations."

The Philippines floated $750 million in new global bonds through the reopening of existing 10-year and 25-year debt paper benchmarks in late July.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of its economy, like importation and debt servicing.

Tetangco said that the GIR estimate for August would be sufficient to cover about 4.3 months of imports of goods and payments of services and income.

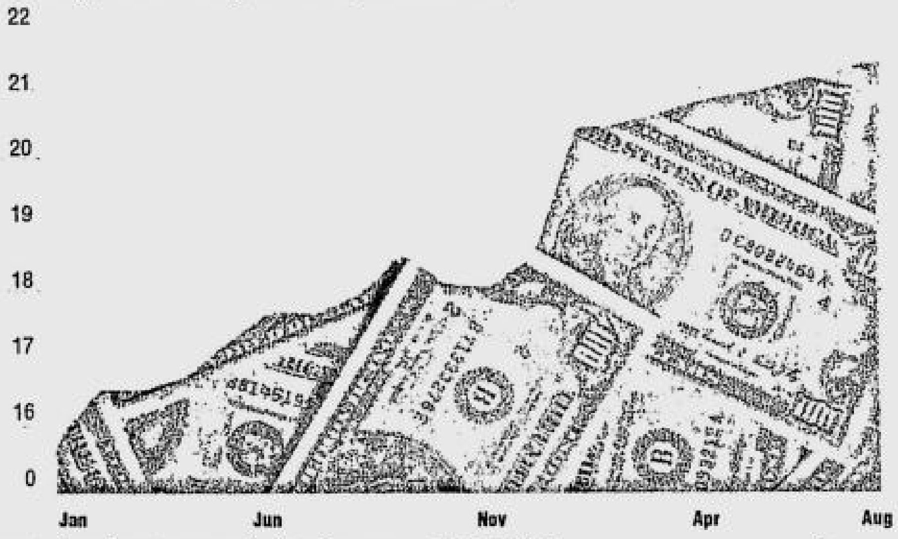
But Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said in an economic briefing that the Philippines should not be obsessed with building up reserves.

Neri said that in finance management, having too much foreign reserves would translate to a "negative carry," referring to a condition in which the cost of borrowing money exceeds the return obtained from it.

In a press statement, Tetangco said that the GIR level at end-August is also equivalent to "3.6 times the country's short-term debt based on origi-

At $21.4B/ B2

Gross International Reserves
January 2005 to August 2006, in billion US$



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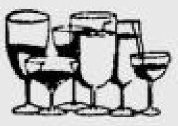

Int'l School descends into corporate limbo /B3

Brittany

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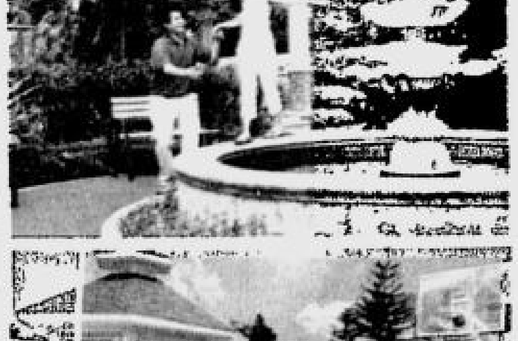

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THE NEW Victorianne

Consumer confidence up as concerns over economy wane

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX among middle- and high-income Filipinos over the past six months rose 7 points to 100 as the country's economy ceased to be a matter of concern for most respondents, according to the latest ACNielsen survey.

Benedicto L. Cid Jr., managing director of ACNielsen Philippines, said that the study conducted last June covered 21,780 respondents from 40 markets worldwide, including 500 Filipinos.

Cid said the company has been doing the biannual survey for four years. The respondents are interviewed through the Internet.

"This study gauges consumer sentiment and confidence in the future of their country's economy, their expenditure and saving patterns as well as their major concerns," he explained.

For the Philippine sample, Cid said the margin of errors was plus or minus 4.4 percent.

He said confidence among Filipinos was in the middle of the index range, which could go as high as 200 and as low as 50.

Among those surveyed, Indians were the most confident with an index of 131 while the Koreans were the most cautious with an index of 54.

The study showed that 33 percent of Filipino respondents who are of employment age ranked job security as their greatest concern.

This was higher than the global and Asia-Pacific average of 19 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Also, the latest poll showed that 24 percent of Filipinos still held the economy as their top concern, which was lower than the global and regional average of 25 percent and 28 percent.

Thirteen percent of the locals said their top worry was political stability while 12 percent said it was their health.

"Concern among locals about political stability dropped eight points, or almost even with the gain in their consumer confidence index," Cid said.

As for discretionary spending, Cid said most people continued to prioritize saving money if they have cash left over after essential expenses were covered.

Filipinos ranked second at 63 percent after the Thais, of whom 70 percent said they would save the spare cash they had.

"While more of our neighbors in the region are spending on holidays and out-of-home entertainment, Filipinos put greater priority on new clothes, paying off debts and new technology (such as cell phones)," Cid said.

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316i (E36)	Alpine White	1998	52,000 kms	P630,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	22,000 kms	P1,100,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	48,500 kms	P1,380,000
318i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	24,500 kms	P1,350,000
325i Msport SMG (E46)	Imola Red	2004	12,697 kms	P1,980,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,177 kms	P3,380,000
523i (E39)	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,145 kms	P1,000,000
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For firms, only BIR-accredited auditors will do

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE has issued a regulation requiring corporate taxpayers to submit financial statements that are prepared by auditors who are accredited by the revenue agency.

Under Revenue Regulation No. 13-2006, the BIR stressed that it will only accept financial statements audited by BIR-accredited auditors.

The BIR added that financial statements to be submitted should include balance sheets, income statements, cash flow statements, and statements of changes in equity.

The new revenue regulation has amended RR No. 4-2005, which required that financial statements should be completed by auditors accredited by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The revenue regulation reflects the BIR's move to take a hands-on approach in determining who should be given authority to represent corporate taxpayers before the revenue agency.

Taking charge of the accreditation of auditors was in line with the BIR's Expanded RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) program, under which the revenue agency would go not only after tax evaders but also after auditors who helped them cheat on their tax payments.

Earlier, the revenue agency issued RR No. 11-2006, which provided the guidelines for the accreditation (or revocation of accreditation) of auditors.

Accreditation of auditors is done either by the Revenue National Accreditation Board (RNAB) for taxpayers remitting to the BIR's head office, or the Revenue Regional Accreditation Board (RRAB) for those remitting to regional offices.

The accreditation of an accountant or an auditor representing a client before the BIR will be revoked if he or she commits offenses like assisting in the evasion of taxes, failure to remit tax payments made by their clients, certifying financial statements that contain false information, such as on income, and signing financial statements without conducting audit, among others.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Gregorio Cabantac earlier said that the RATE program would be more effective if the BIR would also go after accountants and auditors found to be violating RR No. 11-2006.

He said the BIR has already discussed the Expanded RATE program before members of organization of accountants and tax practitioners, including the Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP), and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa).

The groups supported the intensified anti-tax evasion program, Cabantac said.

Launched last year, RATE is a program meant to discourage tax evasion among the public by prosecuting tax evaders, especially high-profile ones.

At $21.4B, GIR hits all-time high

From page B1

nal maturity, and 1.9 times based on residual maturity."

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less, plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

The BSP originally projected a GIR level of $20-$21 billion for this year, but as the upper range had been exceeded, Tetangco said the yearend foreign reserves build-up could hit the $22-billion mark.

The net international reserves at end-August, including revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, reached $21.15 billion or $303 million higher than the end-July level of $20.847 billion.

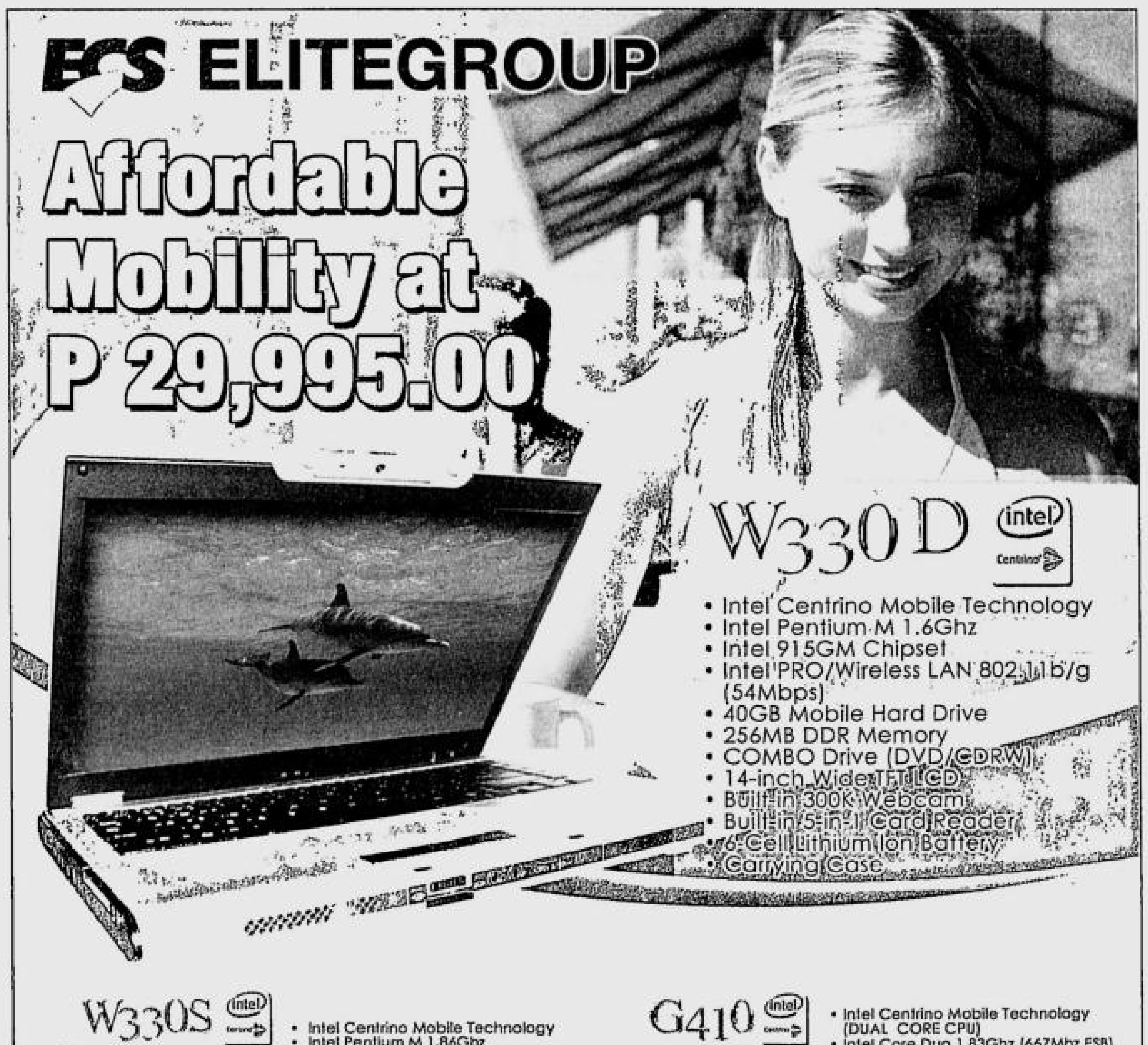
"The improvement in the NIR level was due mainly to the increase in the GIR and decline in foreign liabilities of the BSP," Tetangco said.

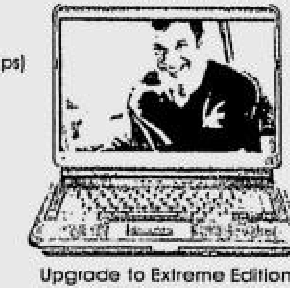
The NIR refers to the difference between the GIR and the combined total of short-term liabilities and use of IMF credits.

The country's foreign reserve build-up over the past few months was supported by proceeds from the government's foreign borrowings, remittances from overseas Filipino workers and, to a certain extent, foreign direct investment and portfolio inflows.

Currency traders also said the sharp appreciation of the peso against the US dollar in recent months had given the BSP opportunity to resume being a net buyer of US dollars and further improve the GIR while smoothening market fluctuations at the same time.

Some economists believe that, in gauging the fundamental strength of an economy, the level of foreign exchange reserves is a better indicator than the exchange rate as it reflects the economy's ability to absorb external shocks.





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GMA program spells . . .

From page B1

can be imposed to prevent a repeat of past state-subsidized loan programs which, according to some estimates, cost the government around P40 billion in unrecoverable loans over the last 20 years.

According to sources within the National Credit Council, Teves' unease over the policy shift is due, in part, to the fact that he was not consulted over the decision to revive state loan subsidies.

"In fact, he wasn't even here when the [executive order] was signed," said an official familiar with the NCC's workings. "He was totally left out of the decision process here, perhaps because [Palace officials] knew that he would oppose it."

The NCC, as a whole, was also left out of the loop.

Second thoughts

Upon learning of the repeal of President Estrada's landmark EO 138, its members promptly prepared a briefing paper outlining their concerns.

"Government line agencies may now directly undertake subsidized credit programs that will result in huge fiscal losses," the paper said. "GFIs (like the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines) may no longer concentrate on wholesale lending but instead do retail, [directly competing] with private financial institutions."

It also warned that private sector involvement in "credit delivery" might dwindle, worsening the problem or credit access.

More importantly, the paper said that donor agencies and the international community might have second thoughts in providing support due to the policy reversal and apparent "policy inconsistencies"—a fact already hinted at by the local representative of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The Estrada-era ban on subsidized credit also gave birth to the microfinance industry.

Microfinance killer

Unlike government doleouts, microfinance is touted as a means of "helping the poor help themselves" by making credit of up to P150,000 available to individual borrowers.

Strict loan monitoring has so far kept repayment rates at an astonishing 96 percent—far better than the average payment rate of large corporate borrowers.

Thanks to Estrada's ban on state-subsidized loans, the industry has boomed and now has an estimated P3.6 billion worth of loans outstanding nationwide. Recent developments, therefore, have microfinance advocates worried.

"This will kill the industry," Microfinance Council of the Philippines executive director Edgardo Garcia said in an interview.

By entering lending market aggressively, Garcia explained that GOCCs and GFIs may end up pushing microfinance institutions out of business.

This scenario is a very real possibility if the government will indeed lend at below-market rates as Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap promised in a separate interview.

Not cheap

Indeed, microfinance loans are not cheap. Lending rates can go as high as 36 percent per annum. This is double the rate at which a creditworthy client can borrow from a commercial bank. But microfinance loans are relatively cheap compared to the over 1000 percent per annum which loan sharks charge borrowers who are not credit-worthy—the very same crowd microfinance wants to help.

For Palace adviser Yap, however, the weaknesses of the present microfinance institutions are very apparent.

"They cannot reach everybody who needs their services," Yap said.

While the private sector initiative is doing an "admirable" job, Yap noted that there are "pockets" which remain underserved or unserved completely by the system.

"This is especially true in the poorest communities," he said. "This is where the government has to step in."

Yap pointed out that microfinance has been a part of President Arroyo's poverty alleviation agenda from day one, but he also hinted at frustrations within the administration about its present state.

Poor track record

"The problem is that they think we're out to compete with them," Yap said, referring to opposition from microfinance advocates to the new policy. "We're not. We're here to serve communities that they're not serving."

For the administration's critics, however, no amount of explanation will do.

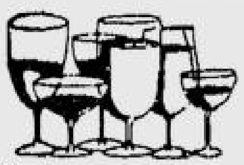
In an interview, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero stressed the fact that the government should not be in the business of lending to private borrowers, given its poor track record.

"It is surprising," Escudero said, shaking his head. "We don't understand why they want to revive a policy that has already been proven wrong in the past, and has already been corrected."

Indeed, the coming months and years will reveal whether the Arroyo administration can buck historical trends and market forces by pushing for a widely criticized and largely discredited program.

Int'l School descends into corporate limbo

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE BESIEGED BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila has lost control even of its website, as the class stoppage entered its second day yesterday.

Protesting faculty and administrative staff, whose e-mail privileges had been curtailed when the mass action became public early this week, defiantly posted their announcements on the ISM website after their Wednesday 8 p.m. ultimatum for the remaining five trustees to resign had lapsed.

Even without the resignations, the exclusive school has descended into corporate limbo, with the board now lacking a quorum with the earlier resignations of five other trustees.

From the original three targets—Martin Lahm III, Tom Navasero and Leandro de Mesa—the protesting faculty now also want ISM president Gracita Gilda Bocanegra and trustee Hans-Peter Brunner to hand in their resignations.

According to the grapevine, the predominantly expatriate teachers were revolted by the US-style dismissal of superintendent David Toze, a long-time British resident, who was ordered to pack up and escorted by security guards out of the campus Monday as he was celebrating his birthday.

Even before his dismissal, news of Toze's differences with the new ISM board had already been bubbling and were being chronicled in a purpose-built website, www.ism-stakeholders.com.

And, amid the escalating tension, the Zobel de Ayala family showed their corporate firepower against the ISM board by finally revealing that the protest website has all along been hosted no less than right in the boardroom of the Ayala-controlled Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

In addition to the Zobels and other high-society names mentioned in Wednesday's column, the campus strife has also prompted a rainbow coalition of parents—from Loren Legarda, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Benjamin Bitanga, Francisco "Patxi" Elizalde, Elizabeth Virata, to Angelita Ramos (a daughter of President Ramos)—to individually write and press the ISM board to quickly resolve the crisis.

Corporate lawyer Rolando Mario Villonco—who prides himself, like Cocktales, in having the last word in the house, which is, "Yes, Ma'am"—has even volunteered pro bono services to the protesters following the order of his estranged wife, Monique Siguion Reyna.

To reach out to the foreign parents, the protest website even included Korean and Japanese translations of the key manifestos, aside from posting the letters from various nationality-parents of the 1,688 students.

The depth and breadth of the protest action apparently surprised the ISM board, with Navasero jolted by the revelation that the core protest group had even obtained copies of the foreclosure proceedings on his house in the tony San Francisco suburb of Hillsborough.

As this column was being written, rumors were swirling about the impending resignations of Navasero, who was not answering texted messages to his cell phone, and the four other remaining trustees.

Still, even without their resignations, the protesters are already set to call a special stakeholders' meeting next week to elect a new board and, in a Forbes-version of Cha-Cha Express, change the ISM corporate by-laws to limit the board's interference in day-to-day management.

Heard through the grapevine

BENGUET Corp. president/CEO Benjamin Philip Romualdez is holding joint venture talks with the giant BHP Billiton toward starting a nickel mine in Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

BPO industry earnings seen rising to $7.3B

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE CALL CENTER INDUSTRY is projected to grow threefold in the next four years, with its annual revenue seen reaching $7.3 billion in 2010.

About 500,000 seats would be in place by then, according to venture capitalist Intellectual Property Ventures Group Corp. (IPVG).

The country's call center industry started about eight years ago with only three call centers. Today, there are currently 73 existing call centers, 66 of which are in Metro Manila. Other areas outside the National Capital Region are now drawing the interest of BPO companies by offering tax perks and other incentives.

From less than 500 seats in 1998, the industry's total capacity is now placed at about 180,000 seats, with revenues reaching $2.6 billion in 2005.

IPVG said the Philippines was an attractive location for offshore BPO and contact center companies, mainly because of its 94-percent literacy rate and the American English proficiency of its workforce. It said the cost of labor here was only about one-fifth that of the US labor market.

Seeking to take advantage of this boom, IPVG—which is engaged in IT and telecommunications, online gaming services and data center operations—has opened a wholly owned subsidiary, IP Contact Center Outsourcing Inc. (IPCCO), to provide services to the BPO industry.

IPCCO was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission last month .

Its current infrastructure can support 300 seats that will initially focus on startup projects that will each require a starting capacity of 50 seats.

"IP Ventures expects IPCCO to become a revenue center as early as 2007," IP Ventures CEO Enrique Y. Gonzales said.

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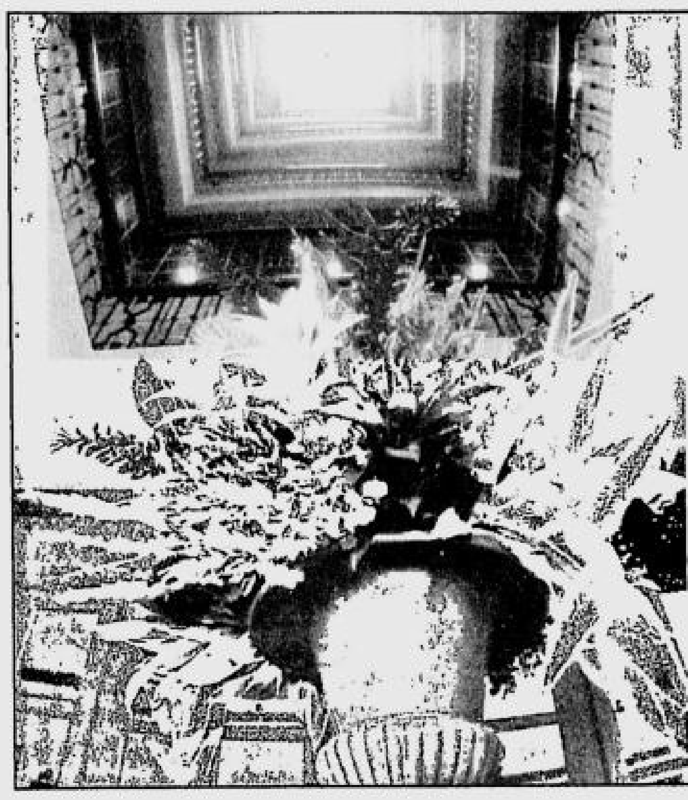

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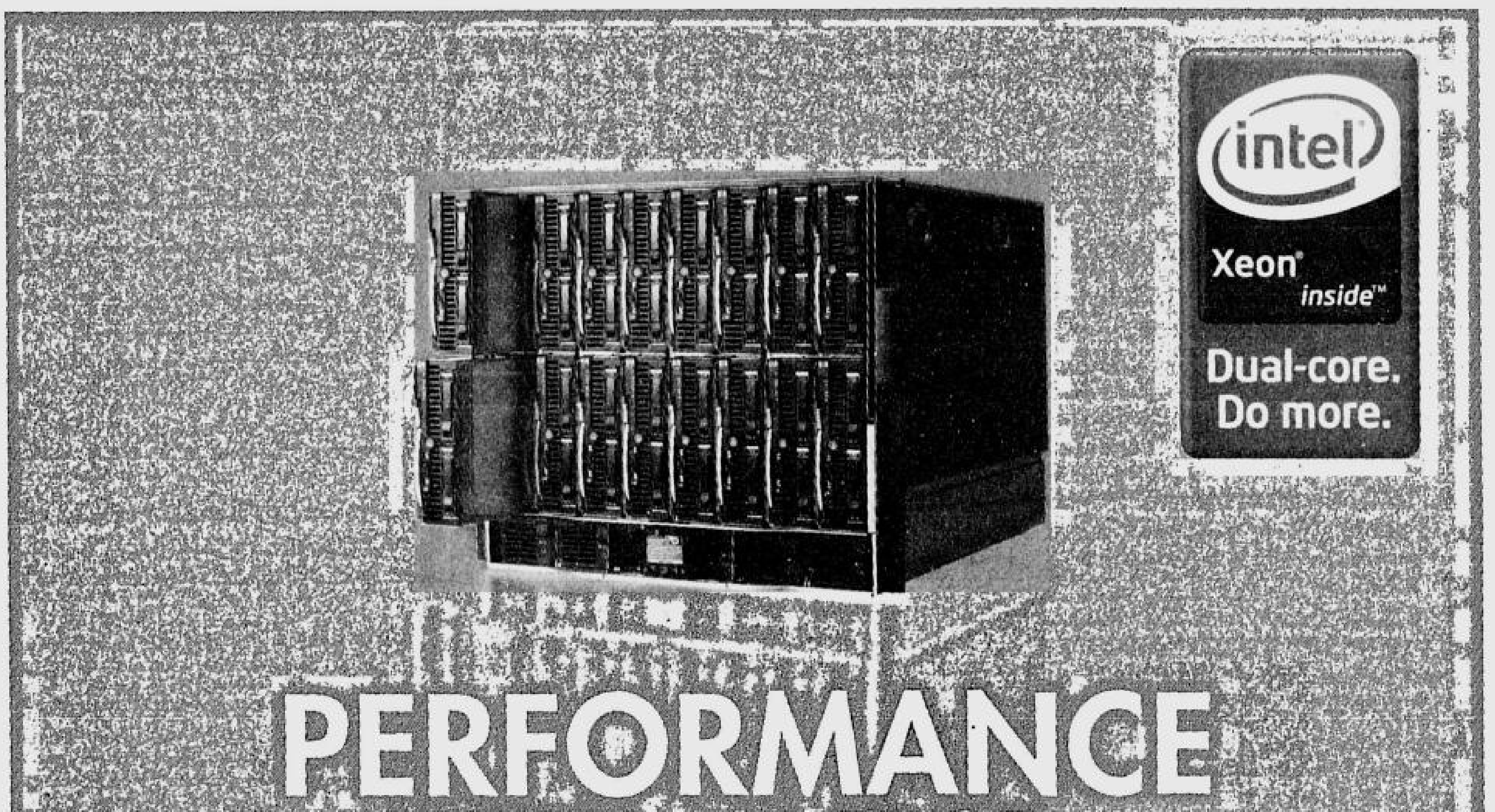

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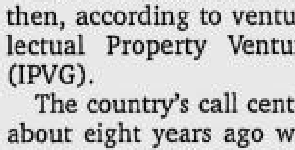

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JOB Market

IMF: Investment growth in Asia still below pre-crisis levels

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND yesterday said Asian countries hit by the currency turmoil of 1997 had sprung back to their pre-crisis economic growth levels but had yet to restore the investment boom of the past.

The countries most affected by the regional turmoil, which caused unprecedented currency devaluation, were Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea.

"Growth rates have already recovered to pre-crisis levels but investment rates in these countries are still below pre-crisis levels, suggesting that increases in total factor productivity (TFP) may now be playing a more important role," the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook released yesterday.

TFP is a measure of the output of an industry or economy relative to the size of all of its primary factor inputs. It factors in any effect on total production not caused by productivity, such as adverse weather conditions which dampen farm output.

"In the Asean-4 (referring to the four biggest economies in Southeast Asia—Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia), low average TFP growth masks significant cross-country heterogeneity, with the Philippines performing relatively poorly," the report said.

But the report noted that the growth performance of Asia, as a whole, reflected strong TFP as well as rapid accumulation of both physical and human capital.

In turn, the IMF said these accomplishments were driven by a more favorable institutional and policy environment than that observed in other developing economies, including greater trade openness, macroeconomic stability, financial development, and in many cases educational attainment.

Looking ahead, the Fund said further improvements in policies and institutional quality would help sustain high sectoral productivity growth rates and facilitate the continued shift of resources from agriculture to industry and services, hence supporting sustained rapid growth, convergence toward advanced-economy income levels, and the elimination of poverty across the region.

In general, the IMF said developing Asia, particularly China and India, had a much higher employment share in agriculture and a correspondingly lower share in services.

"Combining the information on value added and employment suggests relatively low agricultural productivity throughout developing Asia. In contrast, productivity levels are relatively high in industry for China and the Asean-4, and in services for India," the report said.

The IMF said the relative importance of agriculture was declining sharply in Asia over the last three decades.

"The shift was larger than observed in other regions, and proved especially strong in China, the Asean-4, Korea and Taiwan," the report said.

In the case of the Philippines, government data showed that agriculture now accounted for only 19 percent of the economy versus the 48-percent share of services and the 33-percent share of industry.

Security Bank OKs ₱0.75/share in cash dividend

THE BOARD OF SECURITY BANK CORP. HAS approved the declaration of a 75-centavo per share cash dividend.

The dividend consists of a regular cash dividend of 25 centavos and a 50-centavo per share special cash dividend. It will be paid when the dividend declaration is approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

This brings the total dividends declared by the bank this year to P1.50 per share, which is 50 percent higher than that of 2005.

The current dividend results in a dividend yield of 3.4 percent based on the average share price for the last seven months and is equivalent to a 43-percent pay-out ratio of Security Bank's prior year's earnings. Security Bank has progressively improved its cash dividend declarations since the first dividend declaration in 2002.

Security Bank posted a net income of P1.01 billion in the first semester of 2006, 50.7 percent more than the P670 million in earnings in the same period last year. The amount is almost equal the net earnings achievement for the full year of 2005, which stood at P1.16 billion. Earnings per share for the first semester of 2006 increased to P3.07 from P2.06.

Sy quits post in Keppel board

MALL TYCOON HENRY SY SR. has given up his post as director of Keppel Philippine Holdings Corp., an affiliate of Singaporean conglomerate Keppel Group, due to "work pressure in the SM Group of Companies."

Sy, however, did not elaborate.

The board of Keppel Holdings has yet to act on Sy's resignation, which was tendered on Sept. 5.

The taipan is actively involved in the operations of his group of companies, which includes the country's biggest mall operations, banking, and residential and leisure homes development.

In a letter to Keppel Holdings chair Teo Soon Hoe, Sy has recommended SM Development president Rogelio Cabuñag to replace him as board director.

Sy's resignation will also strip him of his membership to the nominations committee of Keppel Holdings.

The SM Group owns about 9 percent of Keppel Holdings. The mall tycoon has been a director of this company since 1989.

He currently serves as chair of his other firms, mall operator SM Prime Holdings Inc., Shoemart Inc., holding firm SM Investments Corp., SM Development Corp. and Highlands Prime Inc. He is also a director of Keppel Philippines Marine Inc., Subic Shipyard & Engineering Inc., Keppel Philippines Properties Inc., SM Keppel Land Inc. and Republic Glass Holdings Inc. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

SMALL BUSINESS GUARA AND FINANCE
BANK

TRADE and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila congratulates Bank of Commerce president and CEO Raul B. de Mesa (2nd from left) after the bank received the 2006 Distinguished Partner Award from Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. The award was given to the bank for its outstanding participation in the agency's guarantee program for SMEs. Looking on, during the awarding rites held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City recently, are SBGFC president and COO Benel P. Lagua (left) and SBGFC chair/CEO Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo (right).

PSE threatens sanctions vs 'manipulators'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE SAID IT would impose stiffer sanctions on brokers proven to be manipulating prices, especially those of highly speculative stocks.

In a statement released Wednesday, PSE market regulation division vice president Ma. Lourdes A. de Guzman also reiterated a warning to the public to be wary of stocks whose prices gyrate wildly without any rational explanation.

"Under the PSE rules, the [exchange] can impose a penalty of P50,000 to P100,000 and/or suspension on expulsion of the erring trading participant from the exchange, for each act of market manipulation as described under the said rules," the official said.

The stock exchange is concerned about the large number of speculative stocks—those with small shares available for public trading, and therefore relatively easy to manipulate—which have breached single-day price fluctuation limits.

PSE caps single-day price advances at 50 percent, while single-day price declines are stopped after a fall of 40 percent.

Based on the recent two months of trade data initially reviewed, there are 19 listed companies that have increased their share prices by a range of 30 percent to 860 percent, breaching trading bands under the PSE rules, the statement said.

Total traded volume and value for these stocks were 7 billion shares and P2 billion, respectively, representing 10 percent of the total value of the PSE Index in the same period.

The exchange added that about 60 percent of the brokers had traded at least one of the stocks in review and 24 percent had traded three or more.

"These stocks also consistently reached 50 percent price appreciation a number of times within the same review period and some for two to three consecutive days," the statement said.

"All these activities happen amidst consistent general declaration of the issuers to have no known basis for the steady climb of its share prices."

The listed companies identified to have commanded a price increase of 50 percent or higher in a single day based on their previous closing prices within the review period are: Abra Mining & Industrial Corp.; Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.; APC Group Inc.; Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.; Balabac Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.; Corro-Coat Inc.; Global Equities Inc.; Imperial Resources Inc.; Mabuhay Holdings Corp.; Magnum Holdings Inc.; Medco Holdings Inc.; Multitech Investments Corp.; Philippine Estates Corp.; Picop Resources Inc.; "B" shares of PNOC Exploration Corp.; Seafront Resources Corp.;

Unioil Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.; Uniwide Holdings Inc. and Zeus Holdings Inc.

"The PSE, at this time, does not state specific opinion on the possibility of the presence or nonexistence of trading on the basis of material nonpublic information and/or market manipulation," the statement said. "However, the PSE reiterates and maintains its strong advice to the public to exercise prudence in making investment decisions in the context of companies having no knowledge of any information that may have affected or caused the increase in the transaction price and volume of the listed issues."

Atlas eyes overseas listing of subsidiaries

By Christine A. Gaylican

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING & DEVELOPMENT Corp. is considering listing its copper and nickel processing subsidiaries in London and Toronto stock exchanges to raise capital for its projects, company officials said.

Company chair Alfredo C. Ramos said.preferred these two exchanges because they were generating bigger transactions for mining companies. "Atlas may be well suited to participate there," he added.

"It (listing overseas) is one of the options we are considering as the foreign capital market is very keen on investing in mining projects," said Ramos in an interview.

For 2007, alone, the company will need $157 million for its projects.

However, he said Atlas shareholders shared his fear of equity dilution. He said the company had to be very careful in its move to list overseas because of this.

Ramos said the company had shelved its initial public offering plan in the local stock market pending the start of the full commercial operations of its Toledo copper mines, which was undergoing rehabilitation.

"The IPO is to be postponed for subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp. until the necessary plant refurbishing is completed and production in Toledo resumes," he added.

Carmen is expected to start operations in the last quarter of 2007, with a projected initial output of 6,000 metric tons of copper, said Atlas' managing director Kim Freeman.

Freeman said the production level would increase to 42,000 metric tons a day in 2008.

He said the company was using portion of a $28-million infusion from shareholder investment fund manager Crescent Asian Special Opportunities Portfolio (Casop) to partially fund the Carmen project.

"The rest (of the funding requirement) would be raised through borrowings and/or foreign placements. Internally generated funds might also be used," he added.

In the meantime, Atlas believes that the prevailing high world metal prices, especially for copper and nickel, will remain due mainly to the rising demand from China and the US.

Copper prices yesterday rose by 5.50 cents to about $3.38 per pound while nickel prices stood at $29,000 per ton at the futures market.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 7, 2006)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	73,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	1,221,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	57	56	57	2,102,500
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	500
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	6,260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	78	78	77.5	77.5	39,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	677,200
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	1,000
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34.5	33.5	34	15,400
Phil. Savings Bank	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	5,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	23,000
Security Bank Corp.	51	54.5	51	53	374,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	45	44	45	3,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.75	691,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1605	1620	1600	1620	430
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	85,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1990	1990	1990	50
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	2,636,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	49	49	1,492,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	1,210,000
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.5	221,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29	31	29	30.5	3,141,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.1	9	9	2,555,000
Petron Corp.	4	4	3.85	3.95	6,953,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	8,039,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	27,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	314,900
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.75	4.7	4.75	55,000
Rfm Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	440,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	79,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	63,300
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	71	71	69,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	4,282,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	3,300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	1,541,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	1,065,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	95,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.8	0.92	0.8	0.92	280,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	90,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.55	170,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	120,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.61	0.64	0.61	0.62	63,130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	3,660,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.67	80,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	175,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	470	477.5	470	477.5	249,640
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5	5	163,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	33,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	2.04	1.86	2.04	967,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,850,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	16,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	350,000
Atn Holdings Inc. B	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.65	3.85	3.65	3.75	656,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	201,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.24	14,016,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.25	3.25	5,299,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.85	1,751,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	626,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	130,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	110,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.5	2.2	1.5	1.88	361,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.12	2.36	1.96	2	17,009,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	1,070,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	4,600,000
SM Investments Corp.	230	230	227	228	821,500
South China Resources Inc	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	70,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.32	1.38	444,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	4,250,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.33	0.22	0.33	360,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	1,868,300
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	80,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,678,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,940,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.46	2.36	2.46	1,495,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	73,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	10,890,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	27,600,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	520,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	4,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	8,251,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.46	2.5	2.46	2.5	30,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	25,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	34,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.85	0.85	210,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	8,530,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	690,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.8	141,436,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.25	0.25	70,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	423,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.86	1,892,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	4,302,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.63	780,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	1,400,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	6,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	11,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	9,571,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1035	1045	1035	1045	28,750
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.15	4.3	4.1	4.3	8,842,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1985	2015	1985	2005	74,280
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,800,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2.1	2	2	22,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	59,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	367,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	15	279,800
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	28,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.06	2.14	2.02	2.08	16,100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,230,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	152,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	3.05	3.5	3.05	3.5	3,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.14	1,109,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	20,400
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5	5	4.95	4.95	1,380,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	5	5	4.95	4.95	1,133,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	967,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.7	2,832,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10.5	10	10.5	113,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.28	2.28	2.2	2.2	222,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	3,130,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	161,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	286,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	67,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4	3.9	3.9	1,518,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4	4	3.95	3.95	5,649,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21	21.25	20.5	20.75	245,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.49	850,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	250,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	5,630,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	95,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	6,600,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	255,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	240,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp. B	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	17,100
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	8,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	710,300

CURRENCIES

September 7, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780701	1.000000	50.4260
Japan	Yen	0.006698	0.008580	0.4327
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471231	1.884500	95.0278
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100387	0.128586	6.4841
Switzerland	Franc	0.632095	0.809651	40.8275
Canada	Dollar	0.706261	0.904650	45.6179
Singapore	Dollar	0.497515	0.637267	32.1348
Australia	Dollar	0.597552	0.765404	38.5963
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.070935	2.652661	133.7631
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208176	0.266652	13.4462
Brunei	Dollar	0.495935	0.635243	32.0328
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020902	0.026774	1.3501
UAE	Dirham	0.212569	0.272279	13.7299
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.280900	64.5907
Argentina	Peso	0.251839	0.322581	16.2665
Brazil	Real	0.365155	0.467727	23.5856
Denmark	Kroner	0.134056	0.171712	8.6587
India	Rupee	0.016968	0.021734	1.0960
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214067	0.274198	13.8267
Mexico	New Peso	0.071109	0.091083	4.5930
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505832	0.647920	32.6720
South Africa	Rand	0.107328	0.137476	6.9324
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.001045	0.0527
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023809	0.030497	1.5378

Zamboanga reinvents itself, adopts new tag

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THIS CITY NO LONGER wants to be called the "City of Flowers." Instead, it wants to be known as "Asia's Latin City."

Mayor Celso Lobregat said the local government had to "rebrand and repackage the city to suit globalization trends" to make the city more marketable to visitors and investors.

Besides, Lobregat said there were other cities in the country claiming the title of "City of Flowers."

He said he would rather give the title to Baguio City, "which regularly promotes their product including showing their wares during the Flower Festival."

The mayor said that in deciding the city's new title, the council considered its being one of the oldest cities in the country.

Zamboanga is also the only city in the Philippines and Asia that still widely speaks a dialect derived from Spanish, known as Chavacano.

The "repackaging and rebranding" of the city was launched during the recent 15th Mindanao Business Conference, which was attended by key business leaders, diplomats and investors from Asia Pacific.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee said Lobregat's action was timely and complements the government's One Town, One Product policy.

Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

PRULINK — **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Sep. 05, 2006	Last Week Aug. 29, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.48602	1.46730
Managed Fund - Peso	1.63737	1.60874
Growth Fund - Peso	1.31267	1.27185
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2846	1.2715

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Transco sells Leyte assets to rural electric companies

State-run firm signs 3 lease purchase deals

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation (Transco) has started selling its sub-transmission assets in Leyte to local electric cooperatives.

At least three electric cooperatives in Eastern Visayas have finalized lease purchase agreements with Transco in a meeting Sept. 1 in Ormoc City, according to corporate communications officer Edna Legaspina of the Transco office in Ormoc City.

The three were Leyte II, Leyte IV and Leyte V electric cooperatives, all in the province of Leyte, Legaspina said in a recent telephone interview.

She said Leyeco II had agreed to buy Transco's Babatngon-Abucay 69-kilovolt (kV) line spanning 10.79 circuit kilometers, and the Palo-Tacloban 8.05-circuit km, 69-kV line for P18.365 million.

Leyeco II, which is based in this city, serves more than 46,000 consumers in its coverage area, which covers the towns of Palo and Batbatngon and the city of Tacloban.

Leyeco V, on the other hand, will buy the Isabel-Pasar 139-kV line (13 poles spanning 3.4 circuit km) and the Isabel-Philphos line for P58.854 million, she said.

Leyeco V has more than 78,000 house connections in Ormoc City and 11 towns in the western part of Leyte.

Leyeco IV also plans to buy the Barangay Maybog, Baybay-Gaas, Baybay 69-kV line and the Baybay-Tam 69-kV line.

She said among those present during the Ormoc meeting were Noel Ymasa, corporate staff officer of Transco's divestment Office; Rustum Solon, Transco department manager for Leyte-Samar Area, and Sisinio Quindao, Transco division manager for HVDC-OCS.

Also present were Gerry Gwen Conde, Leyeco II general manager; Juvenal Alesna, Leyeco V general manager, and Helen Ybañez, OIC general manager of Leyeco IV, among other electric cooperative officials.

Transco is mandated under Republic Act 9136, or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira)" of 2001, to sell its sub-transmission assets or lines, which are typically rated at 69kV and directly connected to distribution utilities.

Last July, Transco turned over more than P94 million worth of facilities to the power cooperative in Ilocos Norte as part of its divestment program.

Alan Ortiz, Transco president and chief executive officer, signed a divestment contract with the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) for the sale of five sub-transmission lines connecting the towns of Currimao, San Nicolas, Sarrat, Marcos, Piddig and Laoag.

The transmission lines, rated at 69 kilovolts and covering some 53.33 circuit kilometers, will now be owned and maintained by Inec.

The transmission assets are payable in 20 years.

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Coffee council formed in Sagada to spur trade

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE—THIS tourist town's coffee growers have banded together to enhance and protect the local industry.

Thomas Killip, presidential adviser for Cordillera affairs, said the coffee council would focus on the establishment of a cooperative, composed of local coffee farmers, to allow them to take on a bigger market.

The council is composed of representatives from the local government, church, private sector and farmers.

Killip, a former Sagada mayor, said Spanish soldiers introduced coffee growing here in the 1890s. The first coffee orchards that cultivated the arabica variety were established in Batalao village.

"Although [coffee is] grown in backyards, it is possible to earn big. This has been proven in coffee producing countries such as Colombia. We do not have big plantations, but we have orchards," Killip said.

Killip said Sagada's coffee council was inspired by the cooperatives of coffee farmers in Colombia, which helped their communities through the implementation of various infrastructure projects funded by earnings from the cooperatives.

"In Colombia, it was through coffee that they were able to build hospitals and school buildings. [The cooperatives] also raised scholarship funds," Killip said.

"This is an industry which is pro-ecology and environment as it enhances the use of organic materials. [Coffee growing] would supplement [income from] the [town's] existing crops like vegetables and rice," he said.

Killip said the council would help local coffee growers avoid the problems that hit the vegetable industry in the Cordillera, which, at some point, was put at the mercy of middlemen who buy the coffee at very low prices.

"We saw the need to organize the local coffee council [to empower the] people. We are trying to organize [growers] in areas that have taken interest in raising coffee on a commercial scale to give them strength to deal with big business," he said.

He said the council hopes to organize cooperatives in the province and in other parts of the Cordillera.

"If this happens, we will have fair trade to enable farmers to have a fair share in profits," he said.

He said the council would protect the community's interest and ensure the quality of homegrown coffee to be delivered to the market.

The council, he said, would also hold skills training on coffee growing and processing to benefit farmers.

Cotabato airport repair up

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—PREPARATIONS for the repair of the Cotabato Airport are underway and construction could start as early as October, Virgilio Leyretana, deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao, said.

Leyretana said the P45 million needed to rehabilitate the airport's runway system was already with the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

The Cotabato Airport runway system has become a serious concern for airline companies.

On several occasions, airline companies, including Air Philippines, stopped flying to the city because of the runway's condition.

"The old dilapidated runway has to undergo major repair because pebbles pose hazards to the aircraft," said airport manager Jun Masalta.

Leyretana said the government expected the rehabilitation to be completed by the end of the year.

Masalta said the project contractor had brought in heavy equipment needed to rehabilitate the airport.

But he said that even with the rehabilitation work, the airport would continue to be accessible to flights from other areas.

"A system has been put in place so as not to disrupt commercial and private aviation," he said.

The Cotabato Airport, one of the oldest in Mindanao, is considered the gateway to the developing provinces of Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato and North Cotabato in Central Mindanao and Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

It also continues to play a major role in the military's anti-insurgency campaign as it serves as a launching pad for troop mobilization.

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La Union Branch
G/F M. Peralta Building, Quezon Avenue, Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union
Tel No. (072) 242-4587 Fax No. (072) 242-0440

Legaspi Branch
Door 7 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City, Bicol
Tel No. (052) 820-2083. Fax No (052) 480-6331

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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
IONICS EMS, INC. U-1103 DPC Place Bldg. 2322 Pasong Tamo, Makati City	Gan Kian Siong	Vice President for Integrated Supply Chain
MABEY BRIDGING PHILIPPINES 6/F, Marc Tower, 1973 Taft Ave. cor. San Andres St., Malate, Manila	Richard Ramsey Gilthero	Assistant Plant Manager
CEBU NUMBER ONE TRAVEL CORP. 3/F Harrison Mansion, F.B. Harrison St. Pasay City	Joon Jin Jun	Tour Operation Manager
DONEAR INTERNATIONAL TRADING PHILIPPINES, INC. 16 Nazareth St., Multinational Village Moonwalk, Parañaque City	Neeraj Jamnadas Peswani	Merchandising Manager
DONEAR INTERNATIONAL TRADING PHILIPPINES, INC. 16 Nazareth St., Multinational Village Moonwalk, Parañaque City	Lancy Vijay Saldanha	Quality Control Manager
SEAFIELD INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES CORP. Rm. 324 BOC Aduana Bldg., 409 A. Soriano Ave., Intramuros, Manila	Hoi Sung Jeoung	General Manager
COMPUTERSHARE TECHNOLOGIES SERVICE PHILS. 22/F BPI Buendia Centre, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Emilio Menegon	Country Research Specialist
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue Makati City	Xianyong Zhou	Technical Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue Makati City	Feng Zhang	RNP Manager
IT CROSSINGS-MANILA, INC. Unit 5-3 Net One Ctr. Bldg., 26th St. cor. 3rd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	Chiaki Gerber	Asian Marketing Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders/suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

ITEMS	ABC	Pre-bid Conference (Reception Hall) 1:30 p.m.	Bid Opening (Reception Hall) 1:30 p.m.
Contract/Services:			
Ventilator Machine Rental	P16,500.00/unit	September 25, 2006	October 4, 2006
Janitorial Services	8,960,518.08	September 26, 2006	October 9, 2006
Medical Liquid Oxygen including Vacuum Insulated Evaporator	3,360,000.00	September 27, 2006	October 10, 2006
LPG Gas	378,000.00	-do-	-do-
Supply and delivery of the ff:			
Drugs and Medicines	47,390,689.00	September 28, 2006	October 11, 2006
Medical Supplies	6,393,000.00	September 29, 2006	October 13, 2006
Dermatological/Disinfectant Supplies	319,390.00	-do-	October 16, 2006
Medical Gases	4,318,708.00	-do-	-do-
Laboratory Supplies	3,458,679.00	-do-	October 18, 2006
Radiology/Ultrasound Supplies	172,182.00	-do-	-do-
Linen Supplies	517,750.00	-do-	October 19, 2006
Miscellaneous Supplies	155,000.00	-do-	-do-
Foodstuffs	3,543,900.00	October 2, 2006	October 20, 2006

Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of corresponding fee which is non-refundable. For inquiries, contact tel. nos. 735-7144.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) **ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, M.D., D.P.B.A.**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 12,177,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply & Delivery of Various Equipment for the Power Distribution System of Cavite Economic Zone.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following items grouped into the following lots with their corresponding ABC:

Lot 1	-	54 Units Distribution Transformers	PhP	10,347,000.00
Lot 2	-	60 Units Fuse Cutout 60 Units Lightning Arrester	PhP	1,560,000.00
Lot 3	-	6 Units Concrete Pole	PhP	270,000.00
		TOTAL	PhP	12,177,000.00

3. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
4. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least three (3) years experience in the manufacture and/or supply of the proposed product and is able to supply, install configure the proposed products and provide after sales support. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 01-15 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 10,000.00 for Lot 1 and PhP 1,000.00 for Lots 2 & 3 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 25 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 09 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on 09 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 1 & 8, 2006)

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ERRATUM

In the advertisement of the **Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)** re: **NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)** published last **Sept.5, 2006,** one of the names of company/employer should read:

Name of employer: **CJ CALL N TALK INC.**
Name of Foreign National: Hee Kim, Manager
Address: Suite 1007, 10/F Antel Global Corporate Tower, #3 Julia Vargas St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Our apologies.

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Upgrade/Expansion of Wide Area Network Bandwidth Management System
(Reference No.: PB060802-EL0112)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board,* intends to apply the sum of *Php 6,100,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Upgrade / Expansion of Wide Area Network Bandwidth Management System.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *ICT Resources.* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, starting **September 6, 2006 to September 29, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).* The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 18, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of October 2, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, manager's check, bank draft or Irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 61,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 91,500.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 152,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 6,100,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **October 2, 2006 / 2:00 P.M** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave., corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 8 & 15, 2006)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 Local 158
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLIES & INSTALLATION OF CAPIZ GYM AIRCONDITIONING PROJECT
Villareal Stadium, Roxas City

1. The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE intends to apply the sum of (Please see schedule under Item No. 8) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184
3. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms with the attached specification of the said project at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or his authorized representative. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids, if they have not earlier pre-qualified.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to the PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.
8. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	ABC (In pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	October 06, 2006 10:00 AM Bidding Rm Capitol Bldg. Roxas City	Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, Maintenance Services of 10 units unitary self contained direct expansion wall mounted Air-conditioning equipment w/ total capacity of 300tons Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance Services of 4 units non-recirculating direct drive 48" Air Curtains Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance Services of 16 units non-recirculating direct drive 36" air Curtains Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of structural mounting materials Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of mechanical-piping materials Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of mechanical-ducting materials Provision of Professional Services, Installation & Maintenance Service of the Electrical Component	15,000,000.00	15,000.00
II	October 13 Bidding Rm. Capitol Bldg., Roxas City	Supply & delivery of Electrical Materials for the A/C	5,000,000.00	5,000.00

BAC Activities	Schedule
Submission of Letters of Intent	September 18-22, 2006
Issuance of Bid documents	September 25-29, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	October 04, 2006

(Sgd.) **DANTE B. BERMEJO**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

ATTY. SOFRONIO ABAYA BAUTISTA, SR.

(June 8, 1931 to August 21, 2006)

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all who visited us, offered prayers & masses, sent beautiful flowers, extended assistance, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Pansy
Tes and **Benjie**, **Gerry** and **Pinky**,
Essie and **Backy**, **Menchie** and **John-B**,
Bong, **Aldrin** and **Irene**
Nikki, **Joshua**, and **Jamin**

Husband **Guillermo Tapang** and children **Glibennette, Guillermo, Jr.** and **Giovanni**, together with their spouses, grandchildren, and relatives deeply mourn the loss of

ASELA ALARKON TAPANG

Wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend

who peacefully passed away on September 4, 2006 at the age of 73.

Her remains lie at the Tapang residence at Malolos. The funeral mass will be on **Saturday, September 9, 2006 at 1:30 pm at the Barasoain Church.** Interment follows at the Himlayan sa Kalikasan in Malolos City, Bulacan.

Dionisio "Diony" Santos, Sr.

October 9, 1924-September 6, 2006

Diony passed away Wednesday afternoon at the age of 78.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Tinday Tiongco,** his children **Allen, Riz & Louie Ribaya, Ody & Liza, Dennis, Gabby, Ana & Chito Apacible,** and **Bereck & Lalaine,** grandchildren **Daphne, Mykee, Xanjo, Adree, Rob, Patty, Ayo, Chielu, Jaren, Gadel, Kenneth, Stephanie, Kristine, Delaine, Michelle, Jet, Iggi, Joshua, Janelle,** and **Jersey,** and great grandchildren **RM** and **RR.**

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. He will be cremated on Sunday, September 10, 2006.

LUDOVICO CHAN LIM

February 5, 1950 – September 3, 2006

His children **Jovilyn, Jennifer, Lillian, Ludwig, Jayson** & **Aviegail**, and grandchildren; **Martin** & **RV** and all relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Imperial Chapel, located at 143 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on September 9, 2006 at La Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m. after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

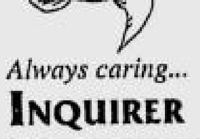
Interment of ashes follows after the cremation at Holy Cross Memorial Park at Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City.

JOSE "TITO" M. DAVID

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 6, 2006 at the age of 73.

His body lies in state at Loyola Chapel, Marikina. Interment will be on September 10, at Loyola Cemetery.



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VICENTE "VIC" ABAD PÉREZ

Has reunited with Our Father
on September 7, 2006, at the age of 79.

His beloved wife : **Lucy Santiago Pérez**

Children : **Vince** and **Leigh Pérez**
Sheila and **Al Plattner**
Benedict and **Marina Pérez**
Arvi and **Marmi Pérez**
Mikko and **Margie Pérez**

Grandchildren : **Keziah**, **Charissa**, **Rebekah**, **Liana**,
Livvy, **Chili**, **Java**, **Nacho**, and **Leon**

Brother and Sister-in-law : **Bernie** and **Chelito Pérez**

Request prayers and meditation for his soul's eternal peace.

His body lies in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

A Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2006, at 6 o'clock in the evening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions will be appreciated in favor of The Source Foundation to promote wholeness and wellness among health practitioners.

"On This Day
O Beautiful Mother,
We Give You Our Love"

Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

December 6, 1937 – September 8, 2003

Her devoted family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Our dearly beloved
Daddy

JOSE "Tito" M. DAVID

of Guagua, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 6, 2006 at the age of 73.

His wife **Lydia**; loving children **Angie**, **Mayet**, **Jojie**, **Maricor**, **Boyet** and **Carol**; sisters **Tita** and **Pining**; cousin **Bong**; nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 10, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

The Officers and Staff of the
Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation
condole with the family of its
former President and CEO

GALO BELLEZA GARCHITORENA
(Sir Galo)

who peacefully joined our Creator on
September 06, 2006 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **Guadalupe Garcia Garchitorena**, children **Gilbert**, **Giselle & Mark**, **Gina**, **Gia & Michael** his grandchildren **Miguel**, **Isabel**, **Kristine & Juzef**, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Sunday, September 10, 2006. He will be finally laid to rest at the Sanctuario de San Vicente de Paul, Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City.

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

Province of Zamboanga A4
Philhealth A8
Philippine Ports Authority A8
National Food Authority A18

RP halal firms to crack UAE mart

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL MANUFACTURERS OF halal food are muscling their way into the food market of United Arab Emirates, considered the gateway to the Middle East.

Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines, said in an interview that his group was helping four companies take part in the Dubai International Halal Show (Dihas) 2006 to be held in the UAE capital from Sept. 11-13.

IDCP—a nongovernment organization—is so far the only local agency that the Jakarta-based World Halal Council, Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and similar bodies recognize as a halal certifier.

Muslim consumers require that authorized bodies certify products as halal.

It is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

Linzag said this would be the first time Philippine firms would be participating in the yearly Dihas trade fair, which include the makers of Mega Sardines, Blue Skies crackers and biscuits, and Minola cooking oil.

Also taking part are Marzell Inc., the first certified processor of halal meat products in the country, and trading group Philippine Grocers.

"It is very good that local producers can now tap the UAE market in a more formal way unlike previously when exports were intermittent," Linzag said.

"But it is also lamentable that only a few can take part in Dihas due to the prohibitive cost of exhibit space," he said. "IDCP is providing two booths for all the firms to share."

Linzag said the government can do so much more if it had a clearer program for the halal industry.

"We hope to get support from the trade and agricultural departments as well as the foreign affairs department in terms of visa matters," he said.

Dihas 2006 provides a venue for international buyers and sellers to explore the global range of halal products, such as food and beverages, cosmetics, fashion, consumables, pharmaceuticals, publications, information technology and financial services.

"At this age, halal product is widely recognized to define safety and quality assurance," he said.

Credit bureau creation urged

Information office to spur lending, IFC's Bhagat says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS CONVINCED THE Philippine government to hasten moves to establish a credit information bureau, saying this was necessary to boost the country's microeconomic sector.

Vipul Bhagat, country manager of the World Bank's International Finance Corp., said in a press briefing that having a credit information bureau would make financial institutions more confident about lending to businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.

A bill creating a credit information bureau is pending in Congress.

Under the bill, banks and other financial institutions will have access to credit information of loan applicants, therefore protecting them from high-risk clients.

Bhagat said IFC is providing technical assistance to help the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas put up and operate the credit information bureau.

Government economic managers are pinning their hopes on the credit information bureau's capability to help spur lending and create more jobs, especially in the countryside.

The Arroyo administration is currently struggling to meet its target of creating at least one million jobs a year.

The Department of Finance, which supports the development agenda of credit cooperatives, said it would help push for the passage of the bill creating a credit information bureau.

The World Bank's call for immediate establishment of the proposed credit information bureau came with its suggestion for the Philippine government to craft a development agenda for the country's microeconomy.

The need to focus on developing the country's microeconomic sector was stressed after an IFC study showed that the Philippines' competitiveness in terms of providing a climate conducive for private businesses has slipped by 5 notches from 121 last year to 126 this year.

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director for the Philippines, said the proposed microeconomic agenda could focus on areas where businesses find much room for improvement.

These include lengthy procedures in business registration and lack of protection for investors.

Jatropha plantations eyed in geothermal sites

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. ALTERNATIVE Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) is looking at tying up with PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) for the establishment of jatropha plantations in the latter's geothermal sites.

PNOC-AFC president Peter Anthony Abaya said the state firm had already brought the idea up to PNOC-EDC.

"We've been in touch with PNOC-EDC and we're looking at forging agreements for jatropha plantations in the geothermal areas," he said.

PNOC-EDC has a pilot jatropha propagation project in Cabangcalan, Negros Occidental.

Agnes de Jesus, PNOC-EDC vice president for external relations, had earlier said that for that project, the state firm planted three varieties of jatropha to determine which would yield the most oil.

Once determined, she said that variety would be used in PNOC-EDC's own jatropha nursery.

She said a minimum of five liters of biodiesel could be produced from one hectare of jatropha.

"But the variety we planted can produce between 10 liters and 13 liters a hectare. At five liters, that should be enough, but we're looking at the variety that can yield the most oil," she said.

PNOC-EDC president Paul Aquino said in an earlier interview that farmers within the state firm's geothermal sites could take advantage of PNOC-EDC's jatropha propagation project.

The farmers' output, he said, could be sold to PNOC-AFC.

The jatropha plant can be used as a raw material for biodiesel. As it can thrive in all kinds of soil conditions, it will not be that difficult for farmers within PNOC-EDC's geothermal sites to grow the plant.

PNOC president and chief executive Eduardo Manalac had earlier said that PNOC-EDC was looking to set up a biodiesel refinery using jatropha as feedstock.

PNOC-AFC had also recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Korean firm Samsung Corp. for an P8.2-billion jatropha project involving a 120,000-hectare jatropha plantation worth P6 billion and a 200,000-metric ton biofuel refinery worth P2.23 billion.

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BUSINESS *Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

What can make or break your sales

Understanding supply chain management principles

SUPPLY chain is also about matching supply and demand.

By Emmanuel Bautista
Contributor

OVER THE PAST DECADE WE have seen in the Philippines the convergence of what were once fragmented disciplines residing in back-office departments of many enterprises, to what is today a form of management science in itself—often called "supply chain" or "logistics management."

The accelerated interest in this field is driven not just by the strong influence of multinational companies, but by the universal realization that an appropriate distribution and logistics strategy is a competitive advantage.

To a large extent, we in the industry are learning from costly experiences. Most supply chain practitioners will recall past incidences when they have had to write off inventory that did not move due to poor forecasting, or lost sales opportunities due to an inability to fully serve customer orders.

There is the occasional "rush delivery" from Manila to Mindanao just so we meet lead-time commitments. The cost is compounded when we end up misallocating inventory across depots, finally forced to return some of the stocks to our main distribution center in GMA.

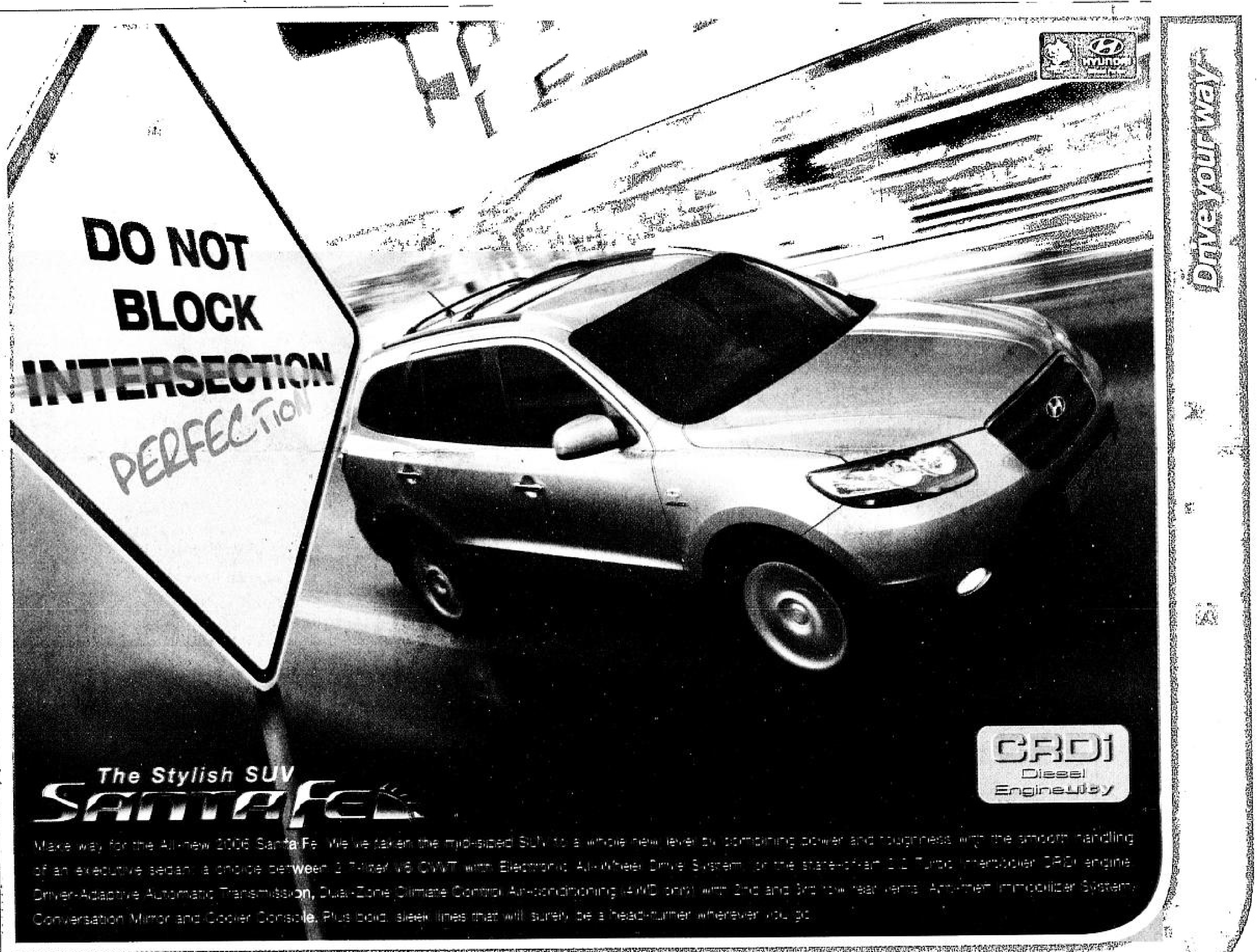
These are experiences familiar to many of us in the industry. The double jeopardy of high logistics costs and unsatisfied customers is the ultimate penalty.

The field of supply chain management is about managing conflict. We see this in discussions between manufacturing and inventory management departments, where the former will argue for larger production batches and the latter explains the consequences of excess inventory.

Supply chain is also about matching supply and demand. We often commit ourselves to specific production and inventory levels months before demand is realized. Advanced commitments imply huge financial risks.

This discipline is about managing a moving target. For some sectors, volume demand across a single month can vary significantly. Some products also experience

WHAT/ B2-2



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Ready, text, bid

Filipinos can now join auctions via the ubiquitous mobile phone

By Abigail L. Ho

AUCTION—NOUN: A PUBLIC sale in which items are sold to the highest bidder; usually done in auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's; can be done over the Internet and even via text messaging.

But one doesn't have to be rich to participate in an auction. Online auctions have been around for years, and items as mundane as CDs and printers to those as unusual as an actual aircraft carrier and a dinner with Warren Buffett have changed hands via that medium.

Okay, so the average Juan dela Cruz can't be expected to bid for an aircraft carrier or a dinner with one of the world's most sought-after multi-billionaires. Those are still just for the rich.

But the regular Pinoy, armed with nearly unparalleled bargaining skills (read: *tawad*) and a nose for great buys, can join the bidding wars with thousands of others in search of that perfect item, whatever that is.

All one needs is a PC with an Internet connection or that handy little thing that Filipinos of all ages, shapes and sizes have come to love—the cellular phone.

That ubiquitous gadget carried by some 36 million Filipinos can be used to bid for items, via homegrown online auctions firm Bidshot.

Simple, accessible, mobile

According to Bidshot managing director Dennis Dumdumaya, the local online shopping market has yet to reach its full potential, with only 1.7 million online shoppers, including those that participate in online auctions, to date.

That's just two percent of the country's entire population of about 85 million, and barely 22 percent of local Internet users, currently estimated at 7.8 million.

The key to getting people hooked on online shopping, Dumdumaya says, is to make the experience as simple, accessible and secure as possible.

Which is why Bidshot has tapped the more ubiquitous mobile phone to back up its online auctions site.

"Our main differentiator (from other online auction sites) is our mobility. Internet penetration is still low in the Philippines, but people here are very upwardly mobile. We don't want to be tied down to locations," says Bidshot managing director Patrick Garcia.

With 36 million Filipinos already quite adept with texting, he says it is but logical for Bidshot to capitalize on the medium, not only to further expand its current base of 100,000 active users, but also to make it easier for Filipinos to embrace the convenience of shopping online.

Youth segment is key

In terms of demographics, Dumdumaya says the youth segment will serve as an important catalyst for growth in the online shopping sector.

He says the youth are usually the earliest adopters of technology and value-added services, such as what Bidshot is offering.

This is proven by recent research results, which show that 35 percent of online shoppers are composed of people aged 24 and below. Those within the 25-29-year-old bracket make up 33 percent, those in the 30-35 range 23 percent, and those 36 years old and above 9 percent.

With the youth market in mind, Dumdumaya says Bidshot's marketing and advertising strategy is also inclined to the tastes of the young and will use mediums that cater more to the younger generation.

Instead of the usual TV ads, he says Bidshot will "viral videos" to advertise its service.

Viral videos are a component of viral marketing and advertising, which relies mostly on word-of-mouth and user pass-ons to get specific messages across to as many users as possible.

Apart from viral videos, Dumdumaya says Bidshot will also be posting ads on social networking group Friendster and on Internet search engine Google.

The company will likewise do email blasts, as well as post announcements on community sites and blogs.

"We're targeting a sizeable chunk of the youth market," he says.

Overseas expansion

And Bidshot is not only targeting the local market, as it has also penetrated the Indian market via a partnership with India Times, the Internet arm of Times India Ltd., India's biggest media outfit.

"We hope that with our technical competence and their marketing strength, we can get 5 million registered users by end-2007," Garcia says, noting the huge potential that the Indian market has, with its 80 million mobile subscribers and 25 million Internet users.

With the huge potential that the overseas market offers, he says Bidshot plans to further expand abroad. However, at this point, the company would rather focus on growing its existing sites, or those in the Philippines and India.

Although he does admit that most of the growth will not come from the domestic but from the international markets.

This year, 10 percent of the revenues of Bidshot and parent firm Chikka Asia Inc. are expected to come from overseas, he says. By next year, this percentage should grow to between 30 percent and 40 percent.

Investing in education

By Clarizza L. Doloroso and Jose A. Osana
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

WTH MORE STUDENTS ENROLLING every year, the need for additional classrooms remains, and inevitably, increases. As the government continues to build classrooms and hire more (and qualified) teachers, it is noteworthy that the private sector is doing its share in the endeavor through the Adopt-A-School Program.

Republic Act No. 8525

RA 8525 or the Adopt-A-School Act of 1998 aims to encourage private enterprises to help in the upgrading and modernization of public schools, particularly those in poverty-stricken provinces.

RA 8525 contemplates private sector assistance and contributions in the form of infrastructure projects, staff and faculty development, modernization of instructional technologies, and provision for books, publications and other instructional materials, among others.

The Department of Education's secretariat for the Adopt-A-School Program is in charge of facilitating the linkage between the adopting entity and the target school. If the adopting entity does not have a school in mind or does not have anything specific to contribute, the secretariat will provide the entity with different adoption packages and a list of prospective schools with their corresponding needs.

Adopting entities execute a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the head of the adopted school concerned. In cases where the adopting entity adopts multiple schools in a particular region/division, an MOA will be executed between the adopting entity and the corresponding DepEd official. For a school located within a division, the school's division superintendent will be the official signatory; for regional project coverage, the regional director; and for projects that are national in scope, the secretary of education.

The MOA specifies the details of the adoption and normally lasts for at least two years with the possibility of an extension unless the adopting entity is dissolved before the end of such period or terminated earlier upon recommendation of the local school board.

Adoption packages

The secretariat has packages that a potential adopting entity can choose in making a contribution. These packages range from construction of classrooms and school buildings, teachers' training and development, learning support, computer/science library equipment and health and nutrition.

But the adopting private entity ultimately has the choice in deciding what to give and how much. Some of the adopting entities in the past have chosen to provide assistance in their fields of business or expertise.

Tax perks, bragging rights and all

In order to encourage private sector participation in the Adopt-A-School Program, RA 8525 provides certain tax and non-tax incentives to adopting private entities:

1. Deduction from the gross income of the amount of contribution/donation that were actually, directly and exclusively incurred for the Adopt-a-School Program.

2. Additional deduction equivalent to 50 percent of such contribution/donation subject to certain conditions like the deduction should be availed of in the taxable year in which the expenses have been paid or incurred.

3. Exemption of contribution or donation from payment of donor's tax.

Adopting private entities are entitled to have their names emblazoned beneath the name of the school and to be represented in the local school board of the municipality where the adopted elementary or high school is located.

Adopting private entities

Under Revenue Regulations No. 10-2003, individuals engaged in trade or business or engaged in the practice of profession, and business organizations, like partnerships, corporations or cooperatives, either resident or non-resident, are allowed to participate in the Adopt-A-School Program. While individuals earning purely compensation income (i.e., from employment) may provide financial assistance and service to public schools, their contributions however will not be entitled to the tax incentives provided under RA 8525.

Work in progress

It is estimated that since its inception, the Adopt-a-School Program has raised over P2 billion worth of assistance from benevolent sponsors which include corporations, foundations, NGOs, private schools, civic organizations and private individuals. Over 400 private entities have participated in the program since 1998, 84 of which participated last year.

Overseas Filipinos have also been called upon to contribute to the program through the Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino sa Abroad (CGMA) project that was launched in June 2003. The CGMA project is a donate-a-classroom project targeting mainly the Filipino communities worldwide as prospective donors of school buildings. It aims to raise funds sufficient to construct 10,000 classrooms in identified priority elementary and secondary public schools nationwide.

Win-win solution

Former Department of Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said, "Basic education is too big and too important a task to leave to the government." With the Adopt-A-School Program, Congress has paved the way for the private sector to do its share.

Needless to say, the tax and non-tax incentives encourage participation in the program. As people in business always consider how expenses affect profitability, the tax perks are certainly welcome.

At the end of the day, everyone wins: the adopting private entity creates goodwill in the community and enjoys a little tax saving; the government has one less problem to attend to; and students get the proper education that they deserve.

What can make or break ...

From page B2-1

significant variations due to seasonal trends, or due to sudden changes in pricing strategies.

Some of the issues we are encountering are new, so we learn along the way. In high-tech or fashion industries, product life cycles are getting shorter and shorter. At the extreme, a manufacturer might only have one order or production opportunity. This is accompanied by an explosion in the number of stock-keeping units (SKUs) making it difficult to predict demand for each item.

RP logistics terrain

Negotiating our way around the Philippine terrain reminds one of an obstacle course—the traffic, natural calamities, convoluted and ever-changing road network; occasional port strikes, the color-coding scheme, the truck ban, and now the "No Left Turn" rule along Edsa. Fleet management considerations are far more complex in Metro Manila as compared to other leading cities in Southeast Asia.

The Philippine market is also fragmented. While GMA and Luzon account for the bulk of demand, the Visayas and Mindanao (Vismin) islands cannot be ignored. The presence of malls in places like Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, etc. highlights the importance of these markets. Not only do we optimize our delivery plans based on an intricate road network, we also have to consider multi-modal possibilities.

Seafreight is still the most common means of inter-island transport, despite the high cost of shipping in the Philippines relative to that of our neighbors. A contributing factor to its cost is the imbalance in shipment loads to and from the destinations. According to one of the leading domestic shipping lines, while almost 100 percent of container vans that move from Manila to Cebu carry goods, only around 33 percent have contents coming back. This is reflected in their revenue profile for the same route—80 percent of revenues come from outbound journeys, and only 20 percent from return trips. You can imagine the degree of imbalance found in other provincial routes.

With all these adversities, an astute businessman will immediately recognize the opportunities for providing improved service levels and cost competitiveness. The market has been burdened with so much non-value-adding cost, and has been forced to tolerate long waiting times. Huge rewards await those who can best work with the local terrain in driving out inefficiencies.

Optimizing logistics network

A common question logistics firms are asked is: "To what extent can we centralize?" We identify some of the basic warehousing functions that can be performed efficiently and accurately in a tightly run environment, especially if there are economies of scale. The move toward centralization though must be evaluated as part of an overall company strategy and cost structure. We can expect for instance the following effects of this move—safety stocks are reduced, order fill rates increase, overhead costs are contained, and inbound transportation costs are better controlled.

On the other hand, centralization can imply that there will be some deterioration in customer lead times and flexibility, and outbound transportation costs may increase.

Establishing the extent to which we centralize our logistics network also depends on a particular industry's market profile and the costs of moving products from source to consumer. We are for instance, undertaking a project for one of our clients aimed at recommending the optimal logistics network. Here, we are having to consider the overall consumer demand profile taken from each of their 50,000 customer demand points. Through the help of advanced operations research techniques, we are able to aggregate this data into a more manageable number of demand points, overlay this on a digitized representation of our road network, while considering the costs of storing and moving products from point-to-point. At the end, an optimization software is run to recommend the best configuration for each defined scenario. The software will also tell us the cost of operating each configuration, broken down between storage and delivery.

Value of information

Maximizing the value of information is the second key area of interest. With the appropriate IT tools and management information reports, we can zero-in on opportunities for operational productivity. If such information is shared across the right departments, or with the relevant business partners, we can also ensure quick responses to specific situations.

Supply chain data is a reflection of the "horizontal" processes that exist within, and even beyond an organization. It can serve as a catalyst in cutting across traditional silos.

One must remember however that these IT tools are exactly that—tools. They will aid us, enable us, but we still have to put in place the appropriate policies, procedures and controls to drive our operations accordingly.

(The author is the managing director of IDS Logistics Philippines Inc., a supply chain management firm.)

A commentary on outdoor advertising

By Blen M. Fernando
Pana president

AD BUZZ

OVER THESE PAST MONTHS, ISsues concerning outdoor advertising have been prevalent.

The focus of all these news on outdoor advertising are the billboards along major thoroughfares, atop buildings and on the MRT.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago earlier pushed for a bill calling for the strict regulation of billboards. Local governments like Taguig and Makati have banned billboards in their respective cities.

Several billboard structures have collapsed, causing destruction to property, inconvenience to the public, waste of advertising resources and negative images to brands or companies who have rented the site from the outdoor advertising suppliers.

Recently, even the Ombudsman has joined the MMDA in the crusade on billboards that do not conform to the National Building Code. Many concerned parties have also written complaint letters on billboards, to both the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) and the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), that supposedly contain "sexy" and negative values through its copy or visual.

Pana has also received letters and reports from members and non-Pana members regarding their business/transaction experiences with outdoor advertising suppliers. In order to diminish the occurrence of any of the circumstances mentioned above, the Pana board strongly encourages advertisers to scrutinize the outdoor advertising suppliers that they are, or will be, transacting businesses with:

- Ask for their local government permits for the site(s) that you are/will be contracting from them.
- Ask for the specifications of these structures, as well as the certification(s) of the stability of these structures.
- Ask for their roster of clients and take time out to visit these sites.

Billboards and other similar materials are a form of advertising, thus, making their content subject to the AdBoard's Advertising Content Regulation (ACR) system.

1. Billboards and other outdoor advertising are treated like print ads, thus, these are post-screened, in most cases. This means that even if outdoor ads are not screened by the AdBoard prior to installation, its advertising claims, visuals or copy may be the subject of a complaint from competitive brands or any other party of interest. When these complaints on advertising claims, visuals or other copy are filed with the AdBoard, then the case will be heard by the ACR committee and a decision will be rendered based on the defense or evidences presented by the advertiser or its advertising agency. The burden of proof is, of course, on the defendant.

2. Billboard ads that contain any of the following MUST be submitted to the AdBoard for approval prior to installation:

- No. 1 claim (in terms of sales)
- Exclusivity (e.g., "the only one") or superiority claim (e.g., "the best" in terms of attributes)
- Showing of partial or total nudity or skimpy attire or any visuals/copy/elements suggesting sexual stimulation or satisfaction or gratification or those with copy that has double meaning or sexual/sexy undertones.

This AdBoard provision is part of the procedures of the Advertising Code of Ethics, which has been in effect since 2001. All AdBoard and Pana members must secure the clearance to install the advertising material from the AdBoard if the ad contains any of the conditions above.

Advertisers are highly encouraged to submit and have their ad layouts screened by the Adboard prior to installation if they feel that its copy or visual may cause some controversy or question in the future.

Guidelines regarding possible controversial ads can be found in the Advertising Code of Ethics.

If you fail to secure this clearance, you are sure to get a cease-and-desist order (CDO) from the AdBoard. This means, you will have to immediately pull down your tarpaulin until you get the AdBoard clearance. If you fail to heed the AdBoard's cease-and-desist order, you will be penalized (penalty ranges from P50,000-P200,000 and non-screening of your brand's new advertising materials for six months to one year, depending on the offence).

The Pana president, along with the entire Pana board, calls on all members to be responsible practitioners and help preserve our industry's self-regulation by taking the necessary precautions on our outdoor advertising. Pana can assist its members only if we follow the rules.

Should you have any questions or need any clarifications, please do not hesitate to write us at email@pana.com.ph.

Consumers…

From page B2-4

In the household cleaners category, the power cleaner and spray-on segments led the way for the category, growing six percent in 2005 with four of the five regions rating it within its top ten.

With multinational manufacturers such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever and SC Johnson among other companies making their way in the segment, power cleaners increased their sales by 75 percent. The segment boosted the performance of the household cleaner category in most regions of the world.

On the other hand, spray-on cleaning products fared the global market evenly, growing by 11 percent last year making it another one of the fastest growing segments overall.

The insect control category grew by five percent last year after concerns for insect-borne diseases rose.

High-tech is in

New, innovative and high-tech products also fueled growth, the study said.

The air freshener category saw a global growth of 5 percent last year. The study attributed the growth to the release of innovative products. Growth is seen in the air freshener and laundry stain remover category.

In the air freshener category, battery- or electric-powered air fresheners, a product launched last year, posted a 150 percent growth. Sales of air sanitizers jumped 36 percent while air freshener candles, enhanced with new scented oils, grew 8 percent.

In the laundry stain remover category, "oxi" stain removers, products that oxidize stains, increased by 11 percent as measured in seven of 10 markets where it was released. The product, which the study said made a global impact in the stain remover category, is considered as one of the fastest growing segments in household products.

Meanwhile, sales of "no-wash" stain removers rose by 200 percent but the product was only measured in markets where it was available.

"One of the important messages from this study is that consumers are becoming more sophisticated," Niles said. "[Consumers have an] increasing demand for household products with added value."

Simplicity is key

Products which promoted simplified cleaning also contributed to the growth of some household products, ACNielsen said. Automatic dish detergents and fabric softeners categories are at the forefront of this trend.

The segment of multifunctional dish detergents posted a growth of 20 percent as measured in 20 of 21 markets worldwide. The segment boosted the growth of the automatic dish detergent category to 4 percent.

The fabric softeners category enjoyed a global growth of 5 percent, with Latin America and the Emerging Markets contributing to the category's growth. In Mexico, the launch of a "rinse-free" fabric softener proved to be a hit as the segment grew by 14 percent last year. In Asia, fabric softeners sold in sachet packs grew in volumes as well.

Regional trend

ACNielsen observed that growth rates across the regions varied. Developed markets like North America and Europe experienced lower growth rated compared to the global average while Latin America and the emerging markets posted double-digit growth rates last year.

Data for the report was gathered from purchasing information of groceries and mass merchandise retailers, except from department stores and home improvement centers. The data was collected for the years ending December 2004 and 2005.

From Faith…

From page B2-4

temperament that therapists will begin seeing pets as proxies for their patients."

7. ExpertEASE. "With the availability of so much information, expertise is no longer earned through years of training; all it takes is a little research. People are scouring television and the Internet for opinions and personal testimony as a stand in for first-hand knowledge. So much of what we consume is virtual that we've lost the preferred taste for actual experience. Look for removable cochlear-implants, rentable by the hour, that instantly lend you fluency in French or an understanding of how to tune a car."

8. DeBug-ReBug. "In the past, clean meant health and dirty meant sickness. But the more we learn of biology, the more we realize that once-icky organisms are actually beneficial. Don't think antibiotic, think probiotic. 'Good' bacteria are vital for our colon-health. Maggots can be used to quickly disinfect wounds. Cleansing is moving from purging the bad to merging with the good. Look for high-end spas, healthcare facilities, and celebrity retreats to offer designer bio-symbiotics and grow-your-own-treatment home kits."

9. Mood Tuning products. "We're redefining 'retail-therapy.' No longer content to simply buy things, we are beginning to expect that the things we buy will actively help us adjust our feelings. We are tweaking our moods with biologically-enhanced purchases. Soon our clothing will be infused with neuro-chemicals: Evening-wear and lingerie will promote confidence, whereas work-gloves and boots will encourage perseverance. We will use aromatic deodorant to loosen laughter at parties, and school lunches will be engineered to improve student's acuity."

For questions to Faith Popcorn or to the Global Brand Forum (GBF) e-mail at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net God bless!

Use right media for effective marketing

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

HAVING THE RIGHT MEDIA MIX IS important in reaching one's target market. Relying on a professional media agency that makes use of research data and global proprietary planning tools in planning, choosing media with impact and allocating budgets for a brand's media mix has become beneficial for many marketers. Then again, having access to a reputable media planning tool is vital these days with the rising cost and wide availability of all sorts of media formats.

Among the world's recognized media specialist is OMD, belonging to the OMNICOM group with creative agencies BBDO, TBWA and DDB in its portfolio. In the Philippines, OMD ranks among the top media agencies with a roster of clients including Smart, PLDT, Pascual Laboratories, Brittany, etc.

In a recent client road show presentation, OMD paints a picture of the Philippine media landscape as sourced from the Nielsen Media Research Media Index, a globally recognized media planning tool. In the Philippines, it has been tracking local media habits since 2001 on a national scale among A-B-C-D-E socio-eco classes from 10 years old and above. Following are some of the baseline insights derived largely from Nielsen Media Index April to June 2006.

TV viewership

Free TV remains to be dominated by GMA 7 and ABS-CBN with a combined viewership of 87 percent. GMA 7's strong viewership rating performance is pushed by its more pervasive appeal among the D-E classes versus ABS-CBN. Captain Barbell ranked no. 1 as the most favored program among males and females across age classes and heavily among the D and E classes. The rest of the free TV landscape is shared by QTV 11 (6 percent), ABC 5 (4 percent) and Studio 23 (3 percent). Favored time slots remain to be 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. followed by noon to 2 p.m.

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer enjoys the highest readership among the AB and D market.

Cable TV, while still lagging behind Free TV's media penetration rate of 90 percent, displays robust performance at an improved penetration rate of 39 percent. Depending on the target audience, AXN and CNN are favored stations by males ages 20 and above while ETC and Lifestyle networks have greater affinity among the females aged 20 and above. Jack TV has a stronghold among teenagers 13 to 19 years old. On the other hand, Cartoon Network is more popular among male kids 2 to 13 years old while Nickelodeon is the female tweens best bet.

Newspapers and magazines

Newspaper penetration rate is at 66 percent. Dominating the landscape in order of top 3 readership ranking are Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and Philippine Star. Philippine Daily Inquirer enjoys the highest readership among the AB and D market. Manila Bulletin enjoys high patronage among the C and E market. Among tabloids, the most read is Bulgar followed by Abante.

Lifestyle magazines are an emerging media that today has become fully segmented into kids, fashion, general interest, business, sports, information technology, food, music, entertainment, program guides, etc.

For Him (FHM) dominates the magazine landscape. Interestingly, in terms of overall magazine readership, young and female oriented magazines top the segment after FHM. These include K-Zone (a magazine for tweens), Cosmopolitan (fashion and general interest magazines for women) and Baby Magazine (a magazine for parents and families whose life center are their children).

Among female magazine readers, most popular titles in terms of ranking include (FHM), closely followed by Cosmopolitan, Baby Magazine, Chalk and W.I.T.C.H. Among male magazine readers, most popular titles based on readership ranking are FHM, K-Zone, Star Studio, Cartoon Network and Yes!

Radio

Radio has a nationwide listenership penetration rate of 84 percent. In the General Metro Manila area, the most popular FM stations are DZMB's Love radio, DWYS Yes FM and DWRR's For life. High-ranking AM stations include DZMM's Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, DZRH's One Nation One Station and DWXI's Radyo Pinagpala. Across all socio-eco categories and across all genders, DZMB is the most favored station.

Cinema viewership

With the prevalence of more affordable, in-home media formats like VCDs and DVDs, cinema viewership has slackened. In a nationwide tracking among movie-goers, 43 percent continue to frequent cinemas at least once a month while 22 percent watch movies in cinema houses once a week. GMA residents visit cinemas less frequently with only 23 percent visiting the cinemas once a month.

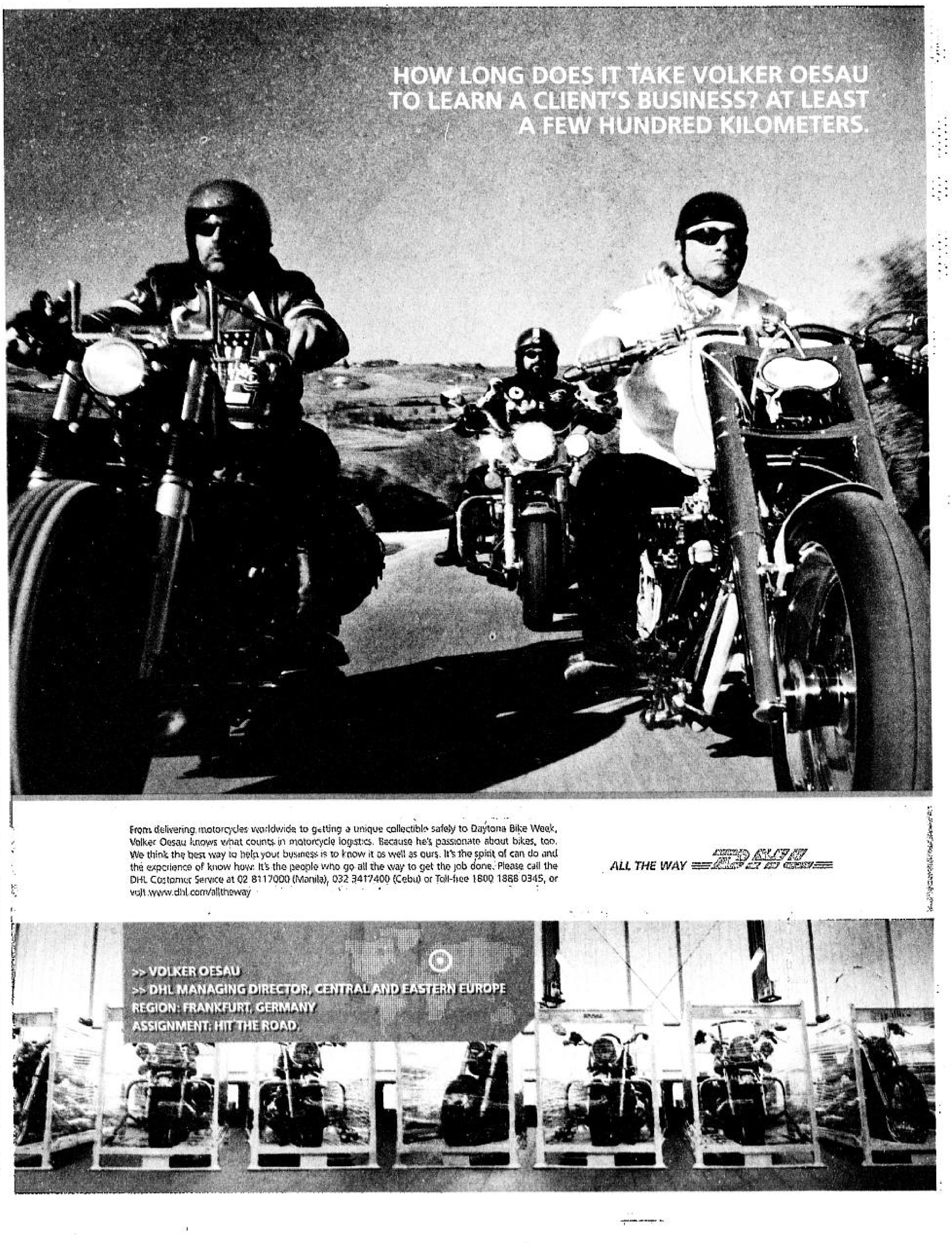
Billboards, out of home media

The popularity of billboards as an effective means of reaching individuals outside of their homes have given rise to a multitude of media formats serving the same intent. Some of these new formats suited to a particular geographic audience include roving vans, bus and FX wraparounds, jeepney and taxi tops and bumpers, tricycle ads; airport garbage bin and carousel ads; in-flight television, radio, magazine ads and ticket jackets; railway transport ads; supermarket and mall walkalator ads, drop down banners in parking areas and façade; floor ads; comfort room ads; interactive kiosks; lift, stairs and elevator ads in hospitals, malls, corporate buildings and offices, etc.

Right media

One of the more important ingredients of effective marketing is to reach and make the brand familiar among its target market. To do so, demands that the marketer sustain brand presence in the media that the target market usually adheres to. Choosing the right media while being restricted by budgets is a tough challenge that marketers regularly face. Thus, having access to appropriate media planning tools and having the right media partner are helpful.

(The author is a Professor of Marketing and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business and is Chief Brand Strategist and Learning Officer of MKS Consulting with email at kdeasis@skyinet.net or www.karendeasis.com.)



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Consumers becoming 'squeaky' clean

By Miko L. Morelos

CONSUMERS AROUND THE WORLD are literally cleaning up their act.

According to a recent ACNielsen consumer research, people are more conscious of their surroundings now as seen in the increasing sales of household products.

The survey, titled "What's Hot around the Globe-Insights on Growth in Household Products," said household products sales around the world grew 4 percent in 2005.

Of the products surveyed, the abrasive cleaning pad and disinfectant categories experienced promising growth, posting a 13 percent increase in sales last year. They are followed by: garbage bags, 8 percent; laundry stain remover and household cleaner, 6 percent; and air fresheners, insect control, plastic storage products and fabric softener, 5 percent.

"While we may differ geographically, there is no question that a healthy, hygienic home is a high priority for all of us," ACNielsen regional president Bienvenido Niles said in a commentary.

"Around the world, consumers are looking to improve and simplify their lives not only with the food they eat but with the products they use in their homes."

The study, released last July, measured the sales of household products, including laundry and dish detergents, cleaning implements such as brooms, mops and brushes, and even plastic bags, among other products. It surveyed 66 markets that account for more than 90 percent of the world's gross domestic product and over 75 percent of the global population

Health consciousness

The study noted several reasons for the growth of household product usage. Concerns for health and wellness boosted global sales, ACNielsen said. This trend could be seen in the disinfectants, household cleaners and insect control categories, among other categories.

The strong performances of the wipes and sprays segment boosted the global performance of disinfectants category, which grew by 13 percent last year.

Sales of disinfectant wipes, which was measured in five markets, increased to 35 percent while disinfectant sprays, which were measured in 19 markets, rose by 10 percent, making it the fastest growing segment in the disinfectant category.

CONSUMERS/ B2-3

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my
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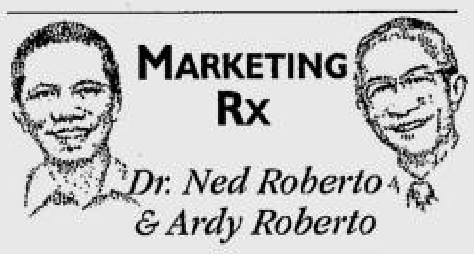
From Faith Popcorn: 9 marketing predictions



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

MANY TIMES WE ARE ASKED: WHAT ARE the coming trends in business and consumer behavior that I can take advantage of or that I should look out for?

To answer that question let's turn to the 'Nostradamus of Marketing'—Faith Popcorn, marketing futurist and New York Times best-selling author of The Popcorn Report and EVEolution: 8 Truths of Marketing to Women. Popcorn founded a New York-based marketing consultancy firm in 1974 that has a staff of 50 brand-marketing forecasters who focus on anticipating trends in consumer behavior. Popcorn will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus David Aaker, Jack Trout and Martin Lindstrom, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this November.

Here are trends that Faith Popcorn predicts are just around the marketing landscape corner:

1. **Touchy-feely services.** "On the cutting edge of the developed world, our material opulence has bred isolation and left us emotionally starving. We crave physical contact. The fad for 'cuddle parties' is only the beginning; as our work hours mount and our friendships become virtual, we will seek simple physicality wherever we can find it. Doctors' offices and hospitals will begin keeping animals on hand to comfort recovering patients. Airports will discover that positive touches increase retail traffic and will hire actors to welcome you with a hug as you deplane. Mechanized 'hugging' booths will take the place of pay-phones in many cities. Even the most reserved financial advisors will literally hold your hand through tough times."

2. **Brain Fitness.** "Having lavished so much time on improving our bodies, we now want the mind to match. A mental fitness boom is brewing, driven by a bevy of new research and the boomers' desire to hide their mental age. Like hair-coloring and contact lenses, mental agility is the newest shortcut to a youthful impression. Ginseng will fall off the market as the demand for brain workouts surges and delivers results. Expect brain trainers to exercise your recall, retort coaches to sharpen your wit and the gym lunch break to become a cerebral drill session."

3. **Secondhand Nostalgia:** "Our FutureTENSE Trend tells us that people find modern life more and more difficult and the potential risks of the future horrific. We are scrambling for a safe place, and without the comfort of present or future, we are retreating to the past. But it is an idealized past that none of us actually lived through. Didn't you go to a roller-rink and eat KFC when you were a kid? It doesn't matter; we all share the same icons thanks to decades of media saturation. Don't be surprised by a surge in popularity of 1950s slang and demand for digital alterations of family photos as we rewrite our own personal histories.

4. **Fantasy Adventure Trend.** Just as the first face transplant has turned its recipient into an overnight celebrity, cutting edge medical advances will become a spectator sport. Our Fantasy Adventure Trend indicates that people will become obsessed with the success or failure of risky but life-saving organ transplants, skin grafts and limb replacements. Reality television will chronicle participants' lives before and after, and magazines will speculate endlessly on who will be the next patient selected. The medical-hopeful will compete in American-Idol-like auditions to prove that they are the most deserving. It's survival of the media-friendliest.

5. **Old Age is "in."** Today's Baby Boomers define 'old age' as starting at 80—three years after the average person is dead. Tomorrow, Boomers won't acknowledge 'old' at all. Terms like 'elderly' and 'mature' will become insults, tantamount to harassment. Boomers will demand recognition of their special needs but not to be treated like 'special people;' imagine large, stylishly iconic but easy-to-read buttons gracing luxury cars like the Infinity and BMW. Even death will get a make-over: The generation that shuns pity will transform hospices into hot-spots as funerals become 'going-away parties' worthy of a lasting legacy.

6. **Family pets that look and act like you.** "Today, we treat our pets like surrogate children. Soon animal lovers and their furry companions will grow even closer, biologically! As the cost of genetic modification plummets, engineering services will be able to create pets from scratch and pepper your future companion's DNA with your own. The result will be a unique representation of you: A pet that looks and acts like you. These animals will be such an accurate reflection of your

FROM/ B2-3

Contributing Editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ity/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
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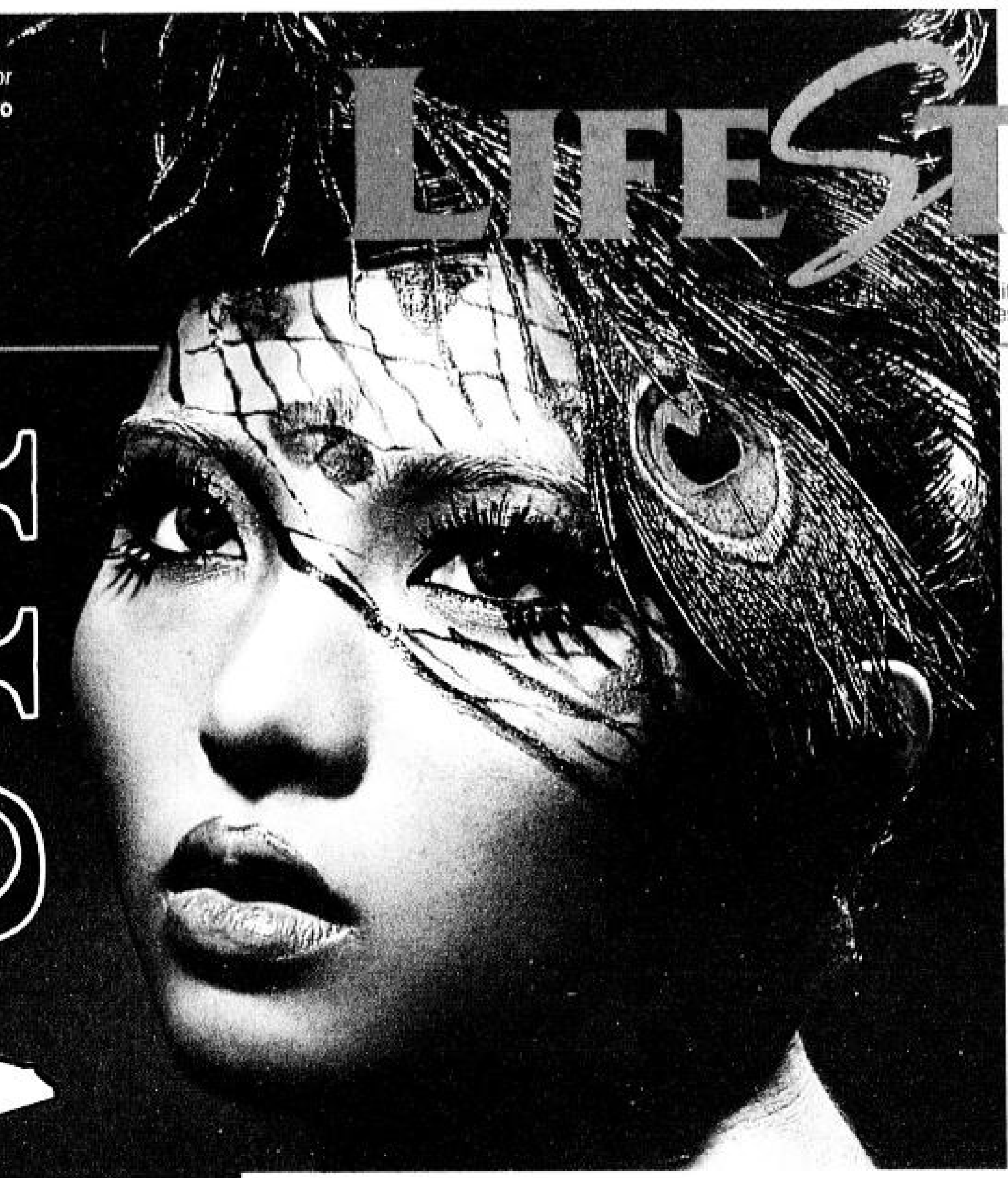

Makeup:
CLAIRE DIOKNO
Hair: NANTE
of Kiehl's
Model: ANA
SIDECO of PMAP

Staring at Claire's creation, one would immediately see the shadows cast by the lone peacock feather on her head. But look closely and you will see that the shadow is composed of individually drawn lines, strategically placed to give the illusion of a shadow. Claire says her look has a 1940s feel to it. Though beautiful makeup is something she can do, Claire, who can paint and draw, is more known for structured avant-garde creations.

All photos by:
Noelle Hernandez
for Edge of Light

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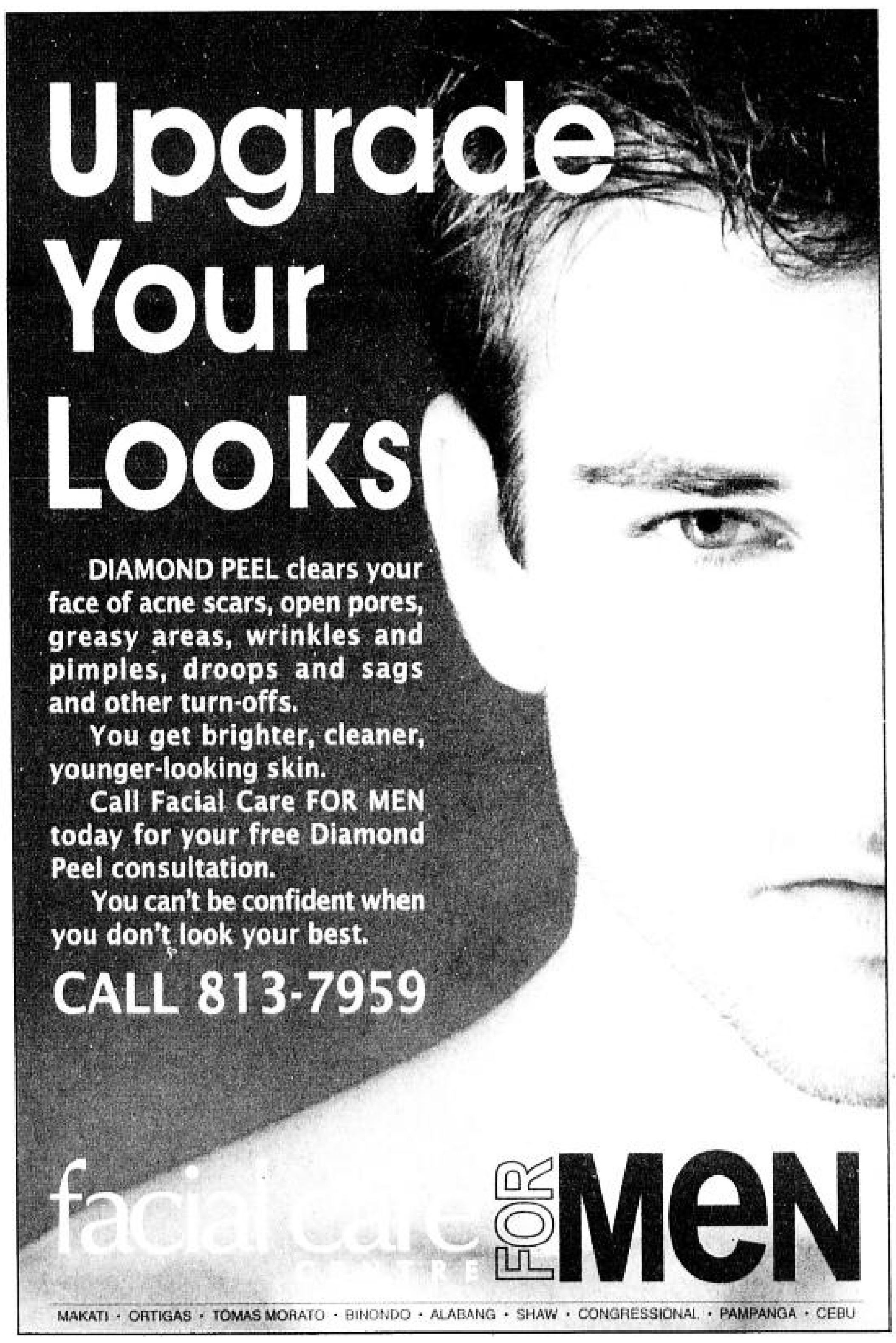

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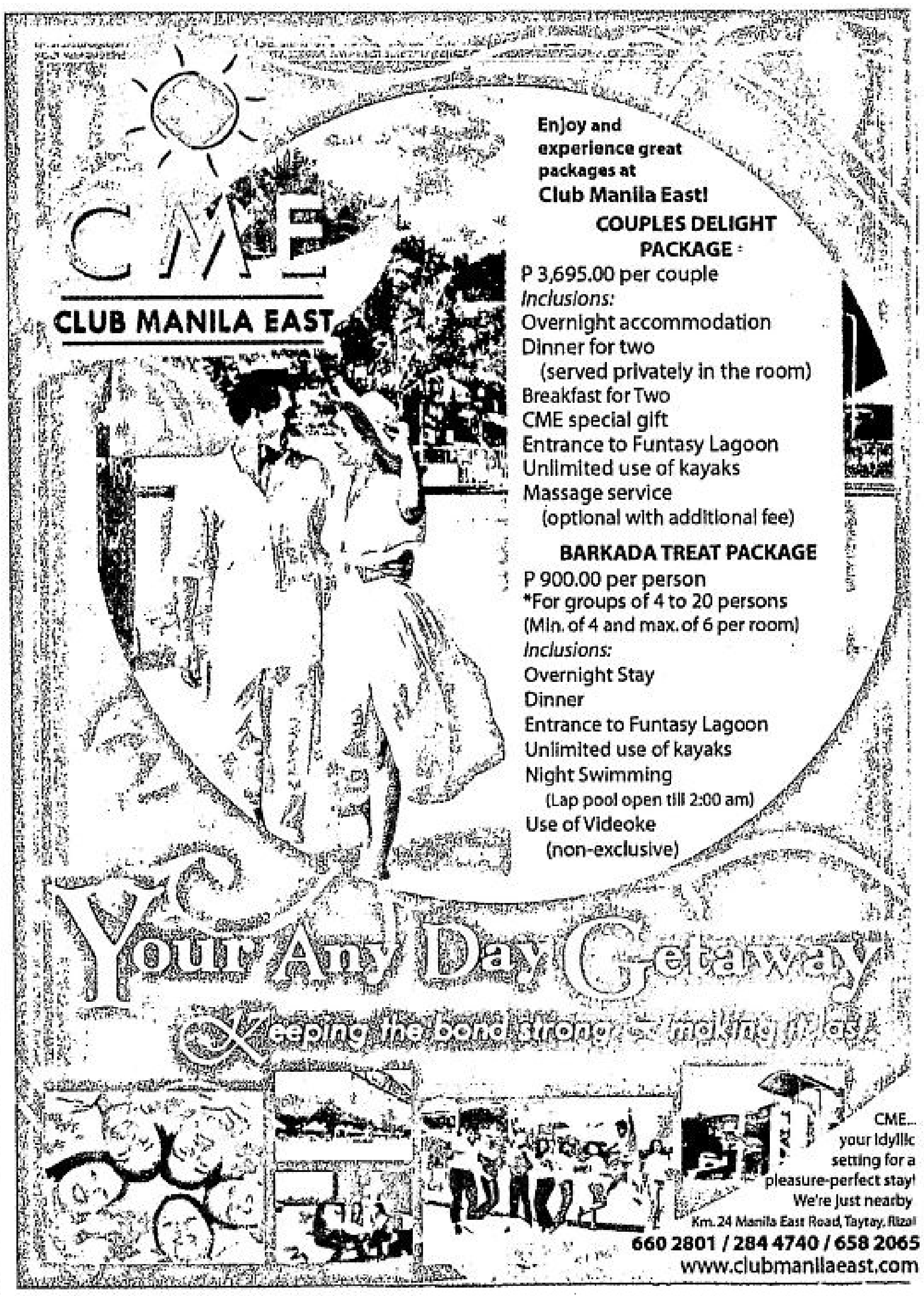

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In love with Fall

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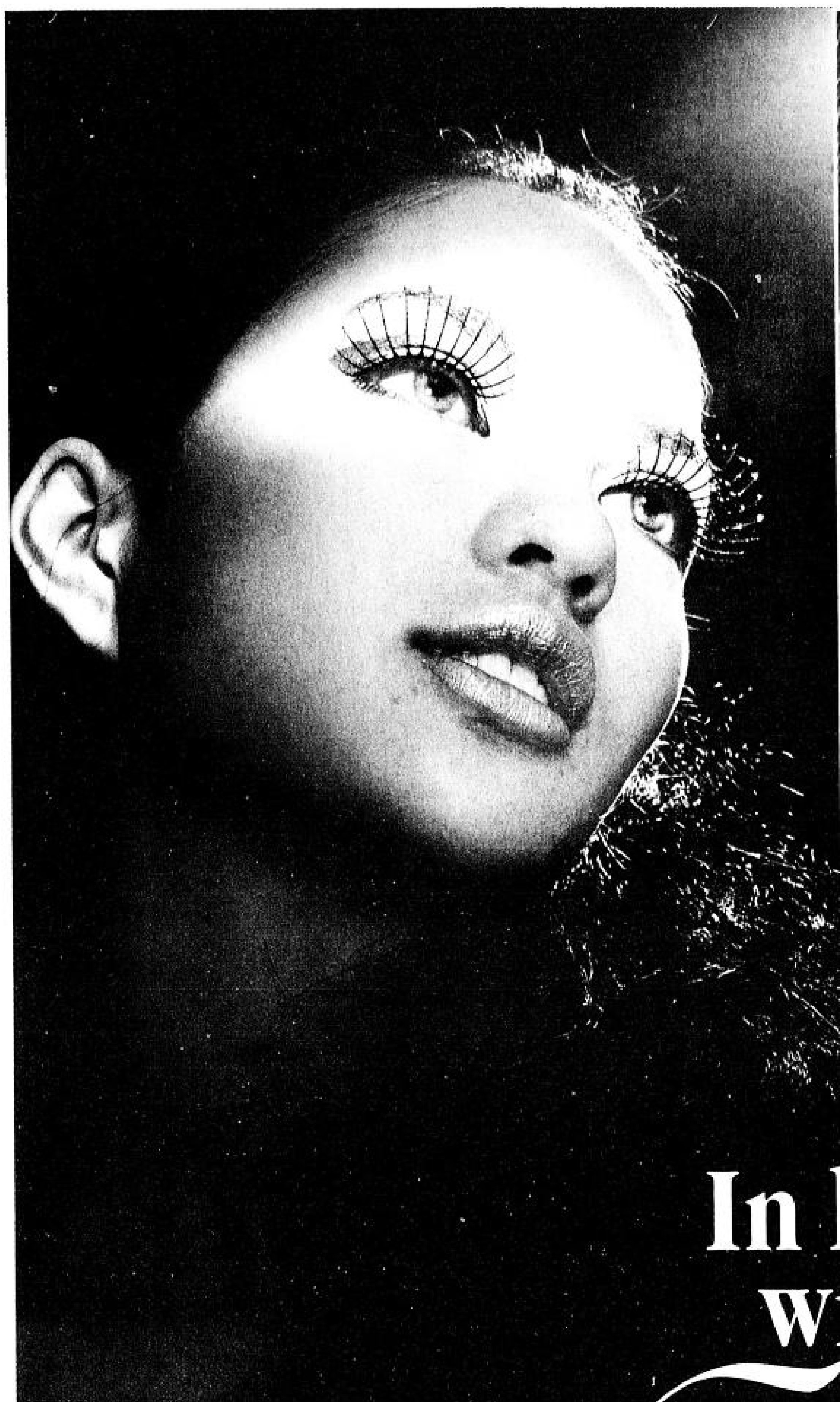
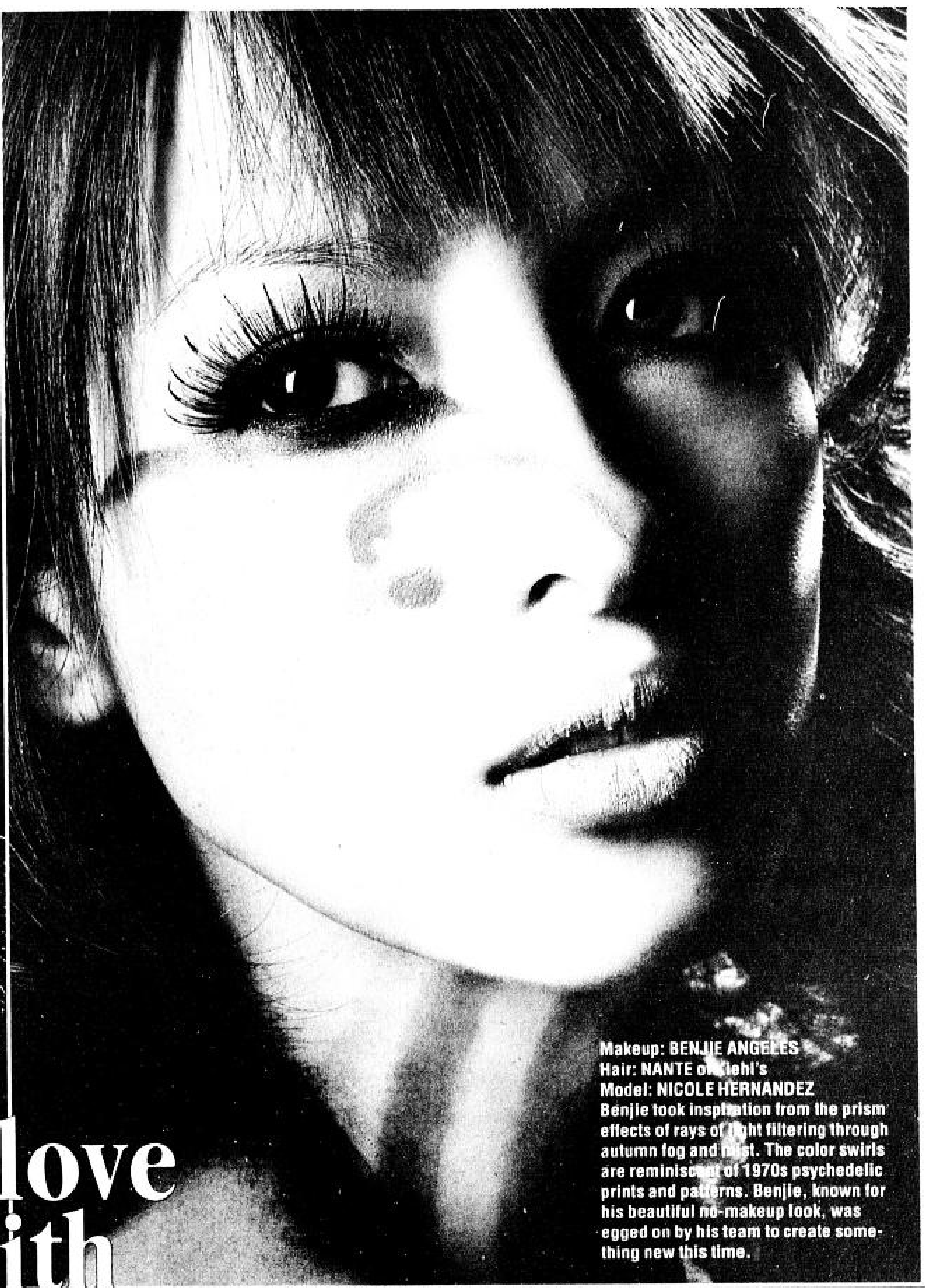
KNOCKOUT!

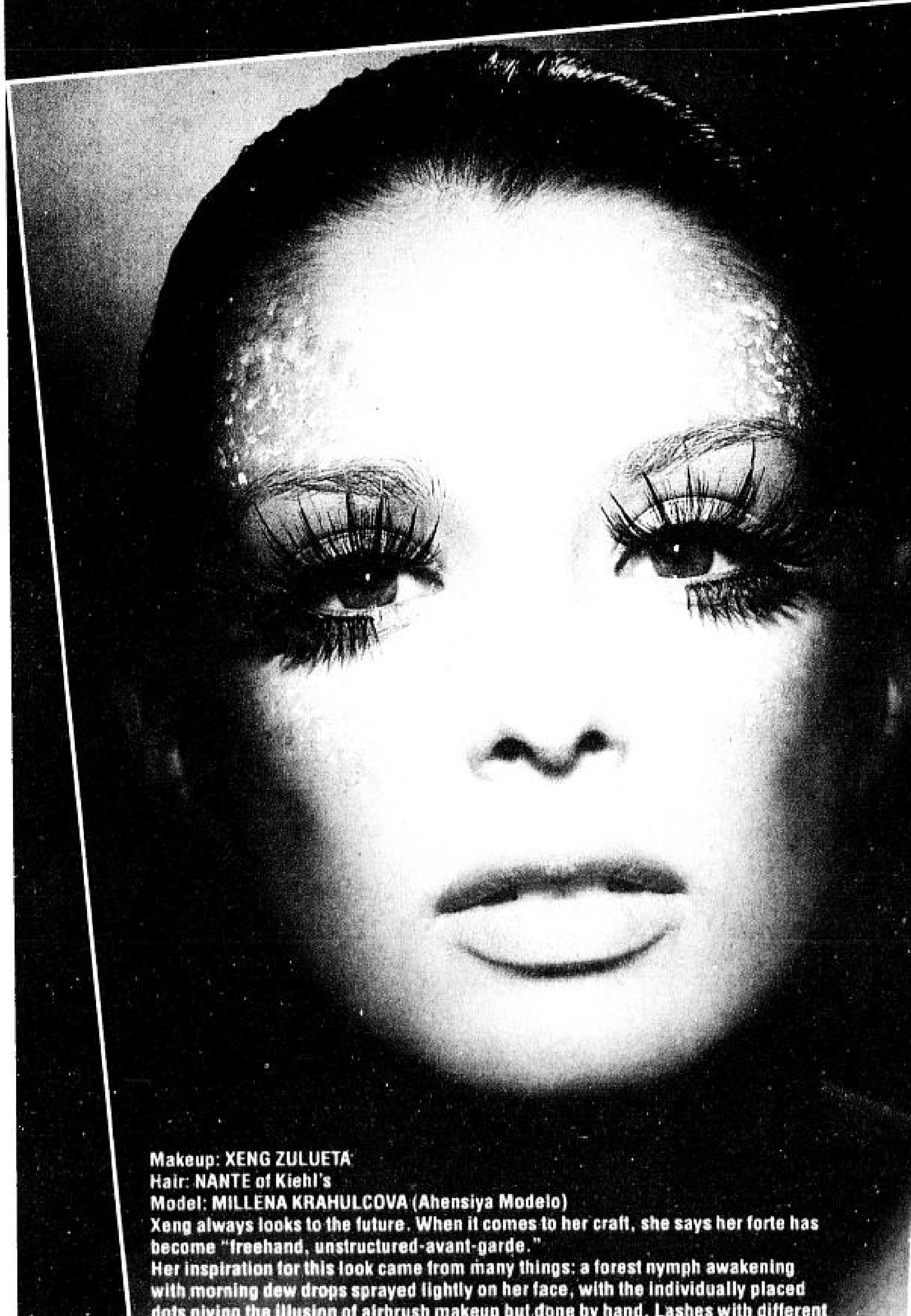
Ria Francisco-Prieto



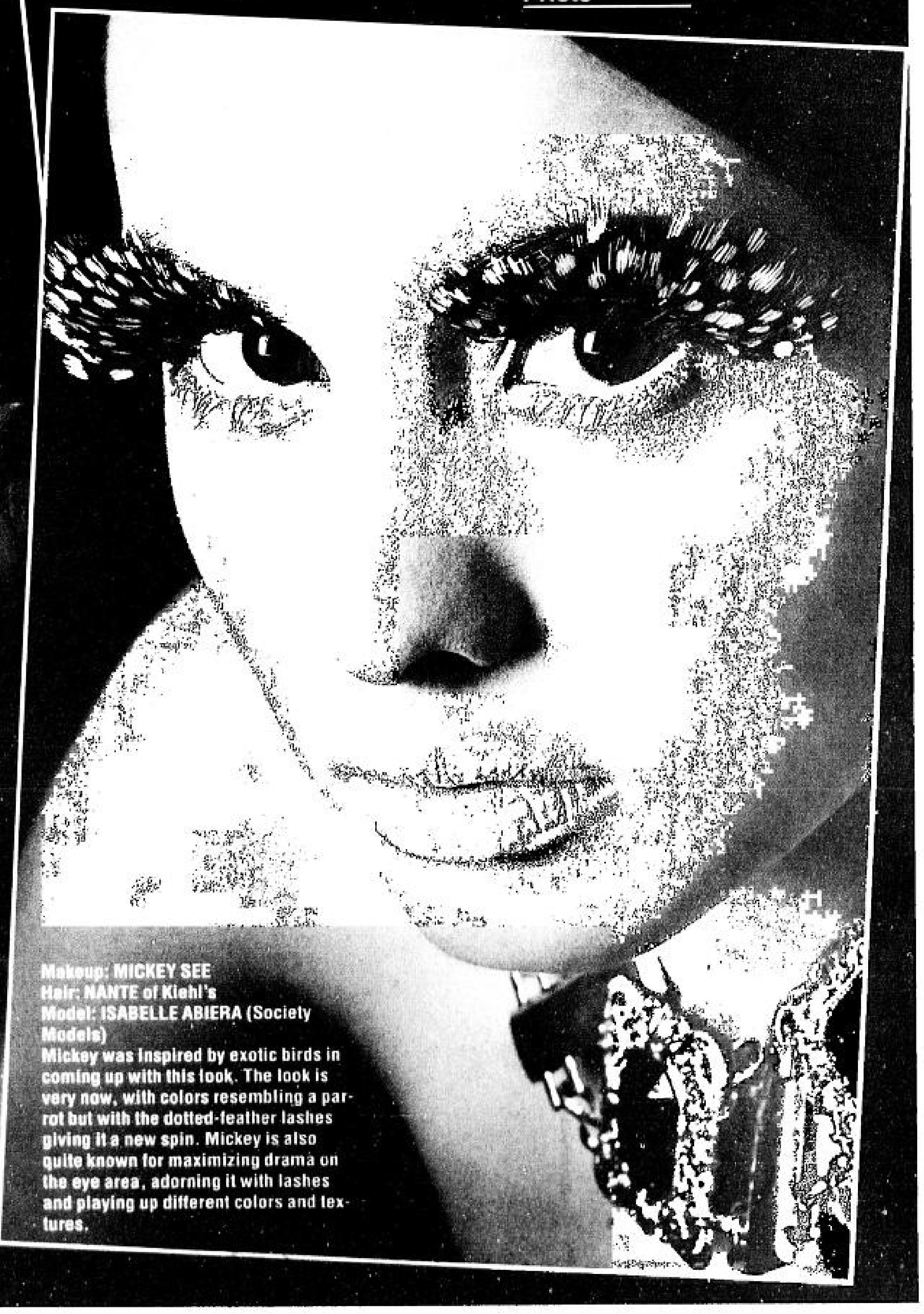
Makeup: GIGI GONZALES-USON
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: ISABEL DIAZ
Gigi's creation evokes a 1960s vibe. The eye shadow is carefully placed alongside webbed false lashes, adding high drama to already intense eyes. This look gives new meaning to "cat's eyes," which is the runway trend for autumn.



Makeup: BENJIE ANGELES
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: NICOLE HERNANDEZ
Benjie took inspiration from the prism effects of rays of light filtering through autumn fog and mist. The color swirls are reminiscent of 1970s psychedelic prints and patterns. Benjie, known for his beautiful no-makeup look, was egged on by his team to create something new this time.



Makeup: XENG ZULUETA
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: MILLENA KRAHULCOVA (Ahensiya Modelo)
Xeng always looks to the future. When it comes to her craft, she says her forte has become "freehand, unstructured-avant-garde."
Her inspiration for this look came from many things: a forest nymph awakening with morning dew drops sprayed lightly on her face, with the individually placed dots giving the illusion of airbrush makeup but done by hand. Lashes with different lengths give more intensity to already intense eyes.



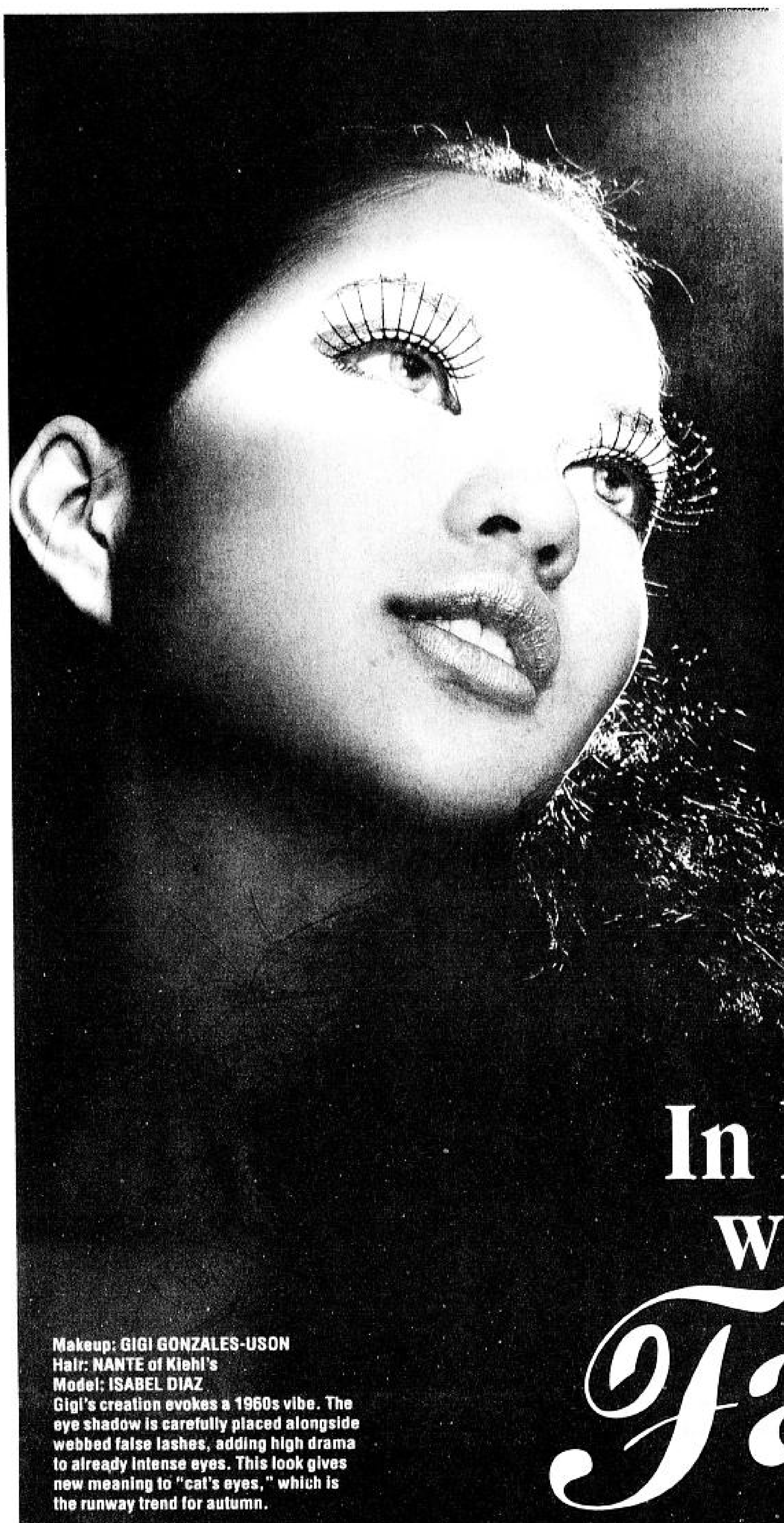
Makeup: MICKEY SEE
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: ISABELLE ABIERA (Society Models)
Mickey was inspired by exotic birds in coming up with this look. The look is very now, with colors resembling a parrot but with the dotted-feather lashes giving it a new spin. Mickey is also quite known for maximizing drama on the eye area, adorning it with lashes and playing up different colors and textures.

In love with Fall

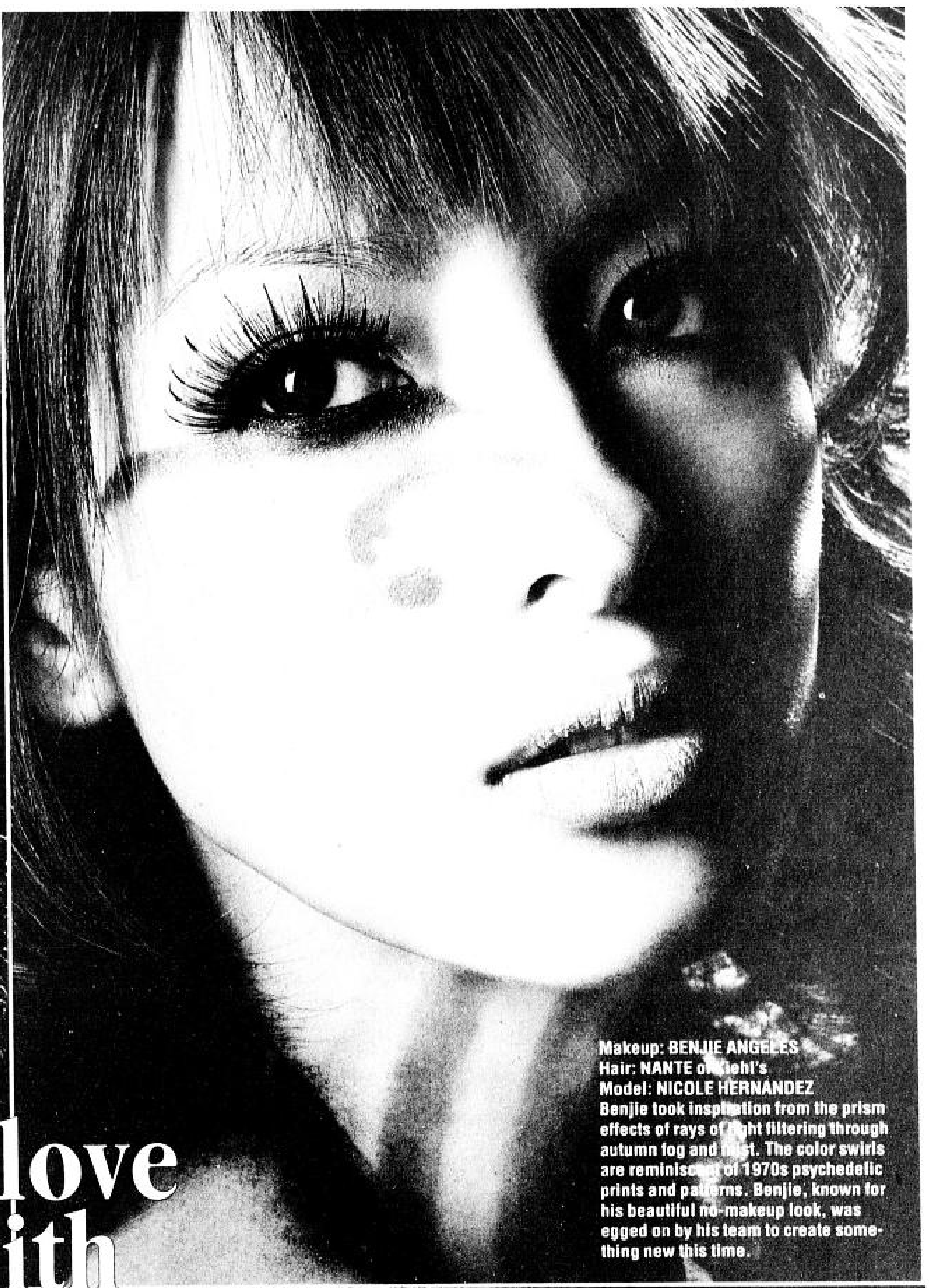
GET INSPIRED WITH the different looks you can play with this Fall. Let Shu Uemura's Filigree collection help you achieve your desired look. To show us how fun it can be, five Shu Uemura makeup artists showcase what Fall means to them.

KNOCKOUT!

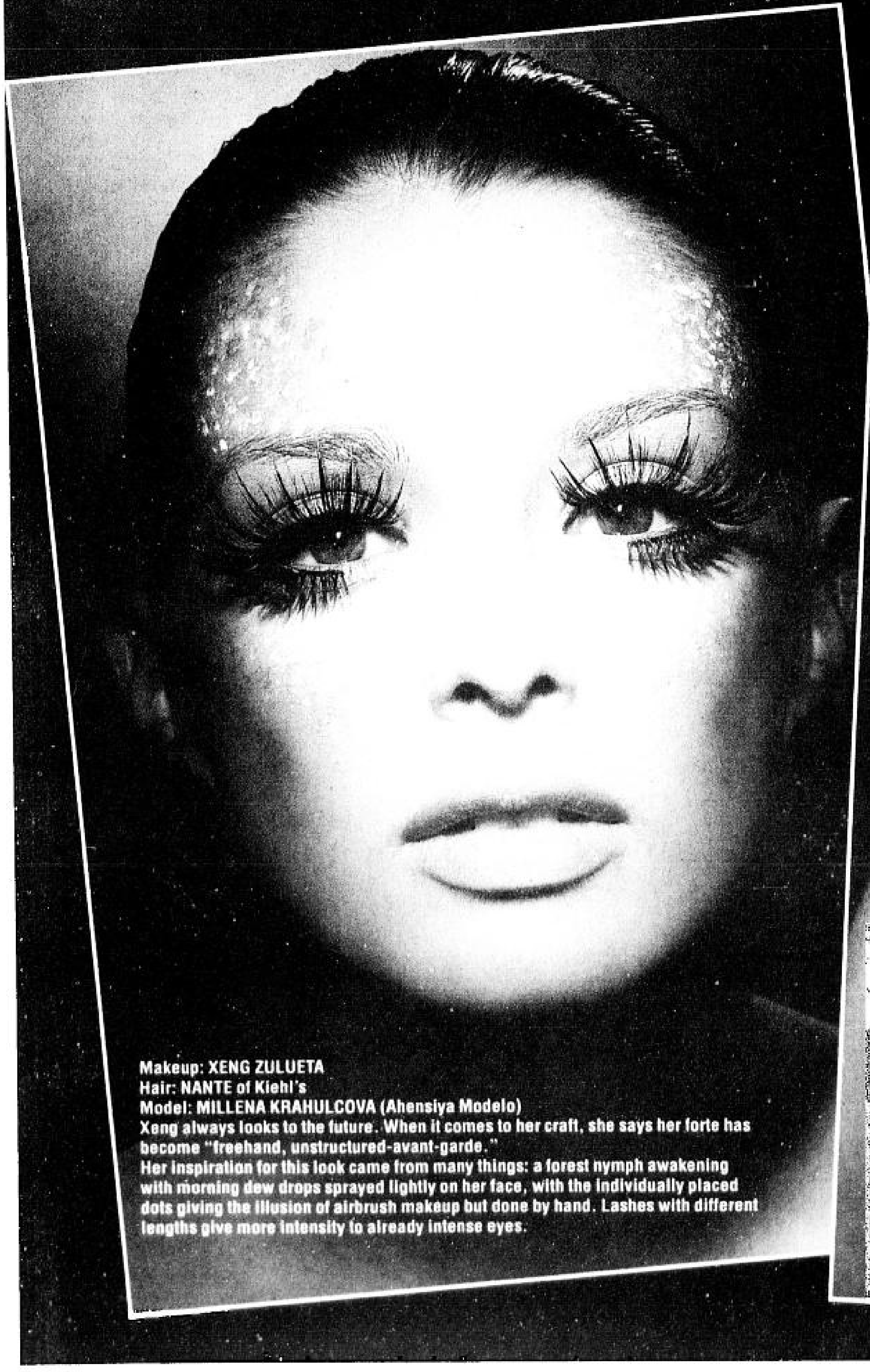
Ria Francisco-Prieto



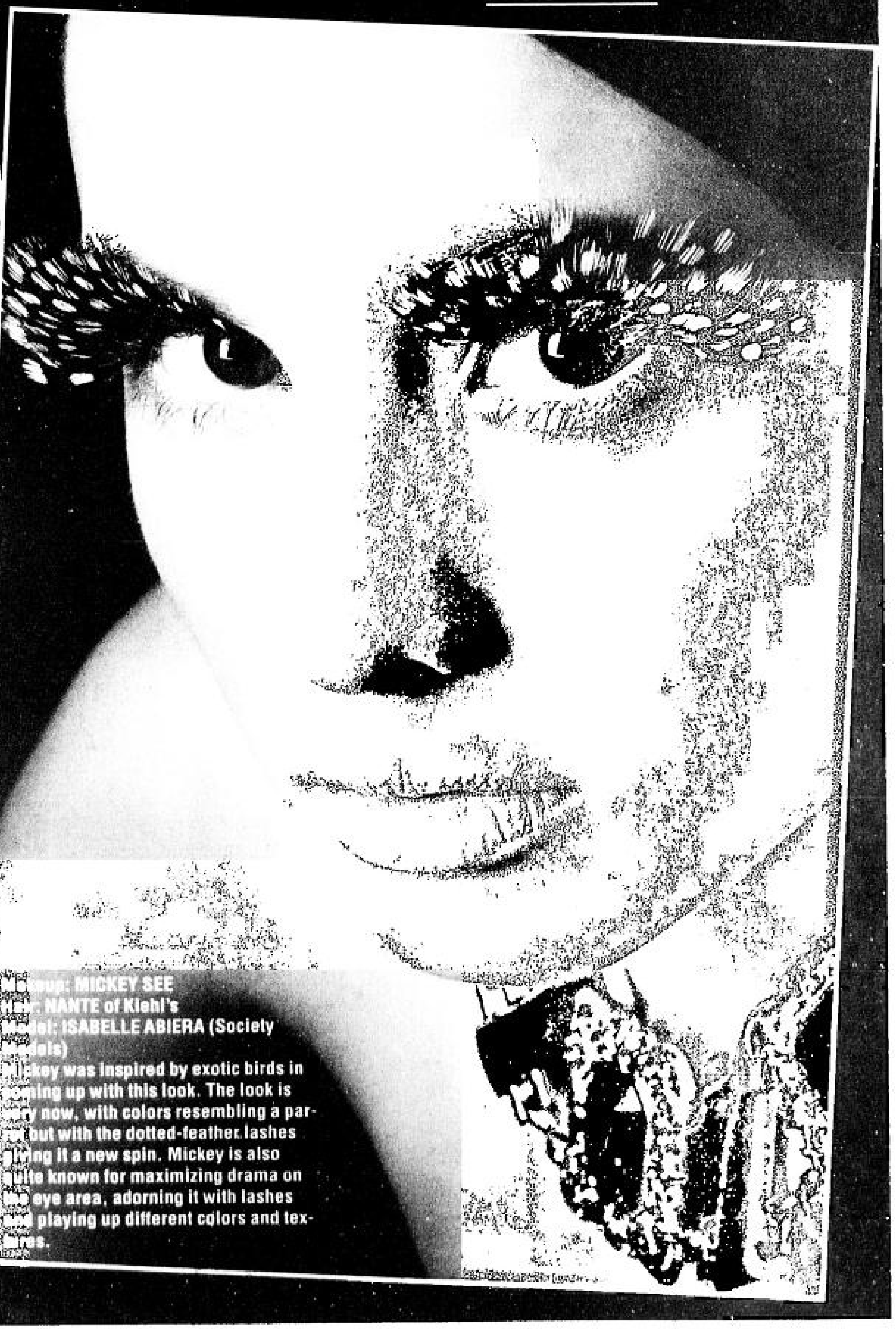
Makeup: GIGI GONZALES-USON
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: ISABEL DIAZ
Gigi's creation evokes a 1960s vibe. The eye shadow is carefully placed alongside webbed false lashes, adding high drama to already intense eyes. This look gives new meaning to "cat's eyes," which is the runway trend for autumn.



Makeup: BENJIE ANGELES
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: NICOLE HERNANDEZ
Benjie took inspiration from the prism effects of rays of light filtering through autumn fog and mist. The color swirls are reminiscent of 1970s psychedelic prints and patterns. Benjie, known for his beautiful no-makeup look, was egged on by his team to create something new this time.



Makeup: XENG ZULUETA
Hair: NANTE of Kiehl's
Model: MILLENA KRAHULCOVA (Ahensiya Modelo)
Xeng always looks to the future. When it comes to her craft, she says her forte has become "freehand, unstructured-avant-garde."
Her inspiration for this look came from many things: a forest nymph awakening with morning dew drops sprayed lightly on her face, with the individually placed dots giving the illusion of airbrush makeup but done by hand. Lashes with different lengths give more intensity to already intense eyes.



keup: MICKEY SEE
r: NANTE of Kiehl's
del: ISABELLE ABIERA (Society dels)
ckey was inspired by exotic birds in ning up with this look. The look is y now, with colors resembling a par- but with the dotted-feather lashes ing it a new spin. Mickey is also ite known for maximizing drama on eye area, adorning it with lashes playing up different colors and tex- es.

Rescue your crowning glory

Unlike men, women with thinning hair have no option to go bald. Svenson offers solutions to this problem

By Alex Y. Vergara

"HAIR LOSS IS A SIDE EFFECT OF WOMEN'S lib," says hair and scalp expert Michael Bernstein. "Women want a few things men have, and now they're getting a few things they don't want."

WOMEN are now as vulnerable as men when it comes to losing hair.

At the risk of raising the hackles of feminists, the Los Angeles-based trichologist (an expert in various hair and scalp disorders) and consultant of Svenson International is merely stating a fact.

In recent years, Svenson's (tel. 892-HAIR) branches in Metro Manila have seen a steady increase in the number of female clients as more and more women assume bigger responsibilities in the office. Bernstein cites stress as the main culprit for hair loss.

"Women are under much more stress than men," he says. "On top of their work in the office, they still have to look after their families at home."

Bernstein isn't alone in his observation. As recent as three years ago, Svenson's clients in Makati were mostly men, says one of the branch's hair therapists (she declined to be identified). Well, not anymore.

"There are days when we get only one male client," she says. "The rest who come for treatment are all women. As a whole, the ratio between the number of men and women who come here is now almost even."

Apart from stress, she cites the growing popularity of such hair treatments as rebonding, straightening and highlighting and their unwanted side effects. Not a few women she treated complained of dry, brittle hair. Some were experiencing alopecia or temporary patches of baldness in various areas of the scalp.

"Women nowadays are probably more conscious of their hair," she says.

They better be. Unlike men, women with thinning hair have no option to go bald. Call it a cliché, but hair remains the fairer sex's crowning glory.

Still, there's no discounting the fact that stress is the leading cause of hair loss, especially among menopausal women. And this finding is backed up by scientific research.

"When you assume the position of CEO, the job naturally requires you to be more aggressive," says Bernstein. "This, in turn, stimulates the aggressive male hormone called testosterone" (which like the female hormone estrogen is present in every person in varying levels).

Too much testosterone in one's system has been directly linked to male-pattern baldness. Once testosterones interact with an enzyme called 5 alpha reductese, a condition called dihydrotestosterone (produced in a man's prostate) or DHT results.

"The hair-growth cycle closes down once DHT binds with genetic receptor points found in such areas as the [man's] crown," says Bernstein.

No panacea

As far as balding men are concerned, Svenson offers no panacea. What it does offer are a number of topical treatments and approaches to stimulate hair growth or slow down hair loss. It usually takes six to nine months to see actual results.

But once the so-called hair-growth cycle closes down, the condition becomes irreversible. There's no way to resurrect the dead. That's why it pays to address the problem early on at its roots.

Should that happen, Svenson offers clients natural-looking "hair weave." The process involves the use of human hair, which is woven into the client's real hair (or what's left of it, anyway). It doesn't do hair transplants.

"It's not a wig, but real hair you can wear," Bernstein points out, in reference to the lingering stigma associated with people who wear wigs and toupees. "You need to visit us at least once a month for maintenance. Other than that, it's the next best thing to real hair."

And since it's removable, the hair weave doesn't interfere with other treatments the client may need for his scalp. Best of all, since strands are woven on a fine, flesh-colored net, the hair weave allows the scalp to "breathe."

Bernstein also debunks the myth that shampooing daily is bad for your hair. On the contrary, he encourages people to keep their hair and scalp clean through regular shampooing and occasional conditioning.

"Soap is for the body and should never be used for your hair," he adds.

Since women have loads of estrogen, they're not as vulnerable as men are to the ill effects of testosterone. Unfortunately, says Bernstein, the level of estrogen declines as women age, and baldness becomes a possibility.

Svenson may have the answer to such a problem with the recent introduction of phyto-estrogen. The topical treatment is a mixture of herbs such as soy, red clover, wild yams and black cohosh that mimic estrogens.

"We've successfully isolated their properties and blended them with amino acids and antioxidants in lotion form," says Bernstein.

As for "aging" hair, Bernstein recommends Kinoxene, another new treatment that helps reduce glycation or hardening around the bulb tissue, which impedes hair growth. Males as well as females 40 years of age and above can benefit from Kinoxene.

"Even somebody who's 30 and is losing a lot of hair is welcome to try it," he says. "People now have a choice whether to go bald or not."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

High and dry

Nivea Deo Pure promises complete underarm protection without the residue on your clothes

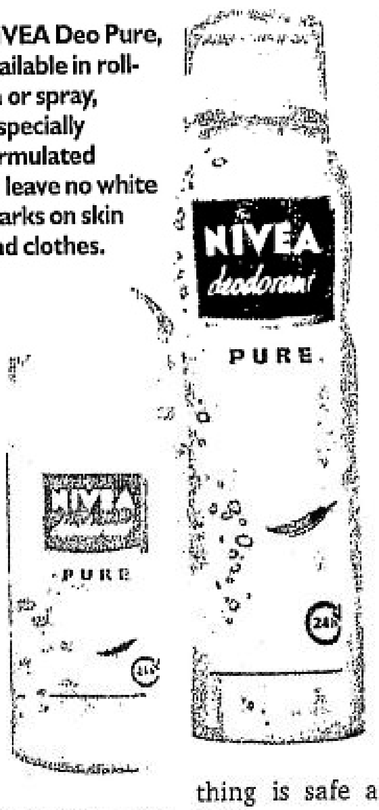
By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

ALTHOUGH THE cooler "ber" months mean less heat than the sunny season, they don't necessarily assure the absence of perspiration. Men and women still have to use their regular hygiene products, including deodorant.

This can be a problem, especially with clothes in the Fall/Winter collections. Little black dresses, suits, silk camisoles—Fall threads often require dark hues and delicate, hard-to-clean material.

A solid roll-on deodorant, aside from being sticky and prone to melting, can damage clothes with the white residue left on the armpits. According to a Nivea market study, 72 percent of the people surveyed wanted a deodorant that left absolutely no residue on the clothes, while 59 percent wanted a very high level of protection. This is the gap the experts behind Nivea Deo Pure are seeking to fill.

"Black is a staple color in everyone's wardrobe," said Rica King, marketing director of Nivea. "Nivea's new variant leaves no white stains or residue that can ruin the perfect black outfit."



NIVEA Deo Pure, available in roll-on or spray, is specially formulated to leave no white marks on skin and clothes.

Nivea Deo Pure has a crisp, fresh scent and comes in two variants: the aerosol spray and the invisible liquid roll-on. According to King, the spray-on variant provides completely dry protection all day long, although the roll-on is also popular with consumers.

"Whitening is also popular," she added. "We offer the strongest but the safest line of whitening products in our market. The thing is, we offer good protection and treatments in our products—body care, whitening and sun care lines—but everything is safe and dermatologist-tested."

During the recent product launch at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel, guests were invited to come in their best black attire. They were also treated to gourmet dessert, music and dancing as a video of Nivea's past events was flashed onscreen.

"No matter how much our guests dance, with Nivea, they won't have to worry about sweat or white stains," said King.

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BAD BRITTANY Burgundy, a deep red créme

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THIRTEEN YEARS AFTER THE launch of Vamp, the black-red polish with purple undertones that appear the color of dried blood, Chanel has done it again with its Black Satin nail polish, a glossy blue-black crème now worn by Hollywood hotshots such as Mischa Barton, Mary Kate Olsen and Lindsay Lohan.

As before, the new polish is worn on short squarish oval nails so you can be dangerously sexy but free to work with your hands. Long black nails are apparently reserved for Goths!

I couldn't be happier that dark nails were back, but I prefer black-red, "dinuguan"-inspired Vamp to the very blatant black. They make the skin on hands and feet look luminously white it is almost supernatural in certain lighting.

I went to the Chanel counter and looked for Vamp, not the Vamp now offered in the States which is also black-red with brown undertones, but the original Vamp Rouge Noir (black-red with purple undertones like ripe cherries). The counter didn't have either Vamp, and the Black Satin was, of course, sold out in the US and Europe before it could even get here. Sigh!

Maybe, it was just as well as I am older now and can't really justify spending roughly P1,000 on nail polish, however much I was in love with it. I headed for the dashing Diva nail salon at Beauty Bar Rockwell because I just had to have something nail-related done.

PR manager Nina Montelibano met with me and when I told her of my dilemma, she smiled and gathered the variations of Goth colors she could find for me to road-test.

Back at dashing Diva while I was having my virtual nails installed, I saw two Vamp-like colors in bestseller Bad Brittany Burgundy (deep-red crème) and Very Sherry (dark burgundy) at P275 each. Nina came back with three black-red shades I had in mind with matching lipsticks because she was aware of my Goth fascination.

Aside from the two Dashing Diva shades the closest to Vamp was Bella il Fiore's Luva (P225), a deep wine that is a deep red under the sun and almost black in dim lighting.

You may also try: Caronia Pussy Red (P33 big, P22, small) in four to five coats.

Movie glamour

For those of us who have been looking for that deep, fresh blood-red without any pink, orange, purple, brown undertones, Nina found Bloom's Real Red (P475) which comes in two coats. Old movie-star glamour!

Other perfect reds you can try are Essie's Mix It Up in three coats, Orly's Red Flare P325 in two coats and Fashion 21 Rouge Amour P75 in three to four coats.

Miner's Moulin Rouge (P250) is a rich glossy burgundy with a bronze shimmer, a very decadent color which would look good with a very elegant evening gown.

The virtual nail length is a quarter of an inch longer than the edge of my fingers in a squarish oval shape.

I bought Bella il Fiore's Luva and Dashing Diva's Bad Brittany Burgundy for toes. I also brought home Bloom Real Red, Miner's Moulin Rouge and Bella il Fiore's Luva.

Rule: Aside from the short nails, clothes must be in neutral solid colors as anything too bright or printed will clash! The dark nails are the accent and lips may match but they should be sheer. For the lips, creamy nude is preferred.

The matching lipsticks from Beauty Bar: Pout Lipstick in Carpet Burn P750 (sheer deep blackcurrant) and Pout Lipslick Foxy (deep blackcurrant sheen, tinted gloss) match with Miner's Moulin Rouge.

Venom Gloss in Windflower (P995) and Smashbox lipstick in Divine go well with Bella's Luva. For Bloom's Real Red, I feel this color should be limited to one area as it tends to attract too much attention. I would go for the sheer deep red like Burt's Bees Merlot lip shimmer, which is a tinted lip balm in pencil form.

For those who want black nail polish, invest in a good base/topcoat but try out a cheap version first, like Caronia's Black Velvet (P33 big, P22 small). It will take about three to four coats but a good topcoat will make it look as expensive as branded counterparts that cost about 10-20 times as much.

Dashing Diva Nail Salon at Beauty Bar in Rockwell. Bella il Fiore, Miners, Bloom, Pout, Smashbox, Burt's Bees and Duwop are available at Beauty Bar.

Note: Certain brands are only found at Beauty Bar in Rockwell and Glorietta.

Orly and Essie are available at Essenses; Caronia at drugstores, PCX and Watsons; and Chanel at Rustan's Department.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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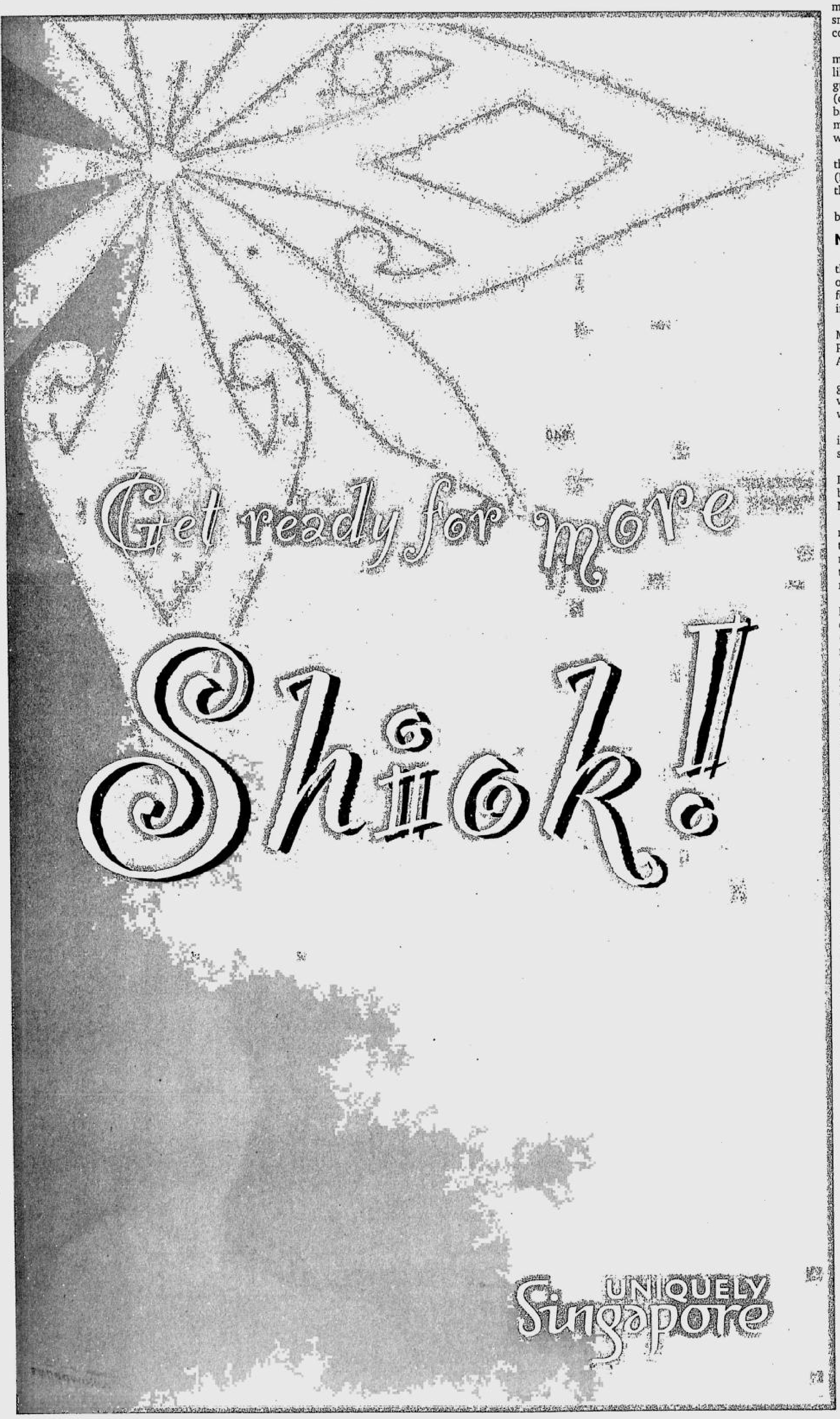

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A SMART toast to Mabuhay Miles. Smart hotshot Ricky Isla, PAL's Henry So Uy, Smart's Cherry Caluya, PAL's Felix Cruz, Ad Reflex's Clang Garcia and PAL's Babsie Aragon

Fun at the 'mardi gras'

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BEADS AND BOAS, rhythmic jazz band, and free mobile phones were just some of the cool features of the "Come Fly with Smart" Mardi Gras Night at the über-chic M Café in Greenhelt 4, Makati, *palanggas*.

Top wireless telecoms company Smart and Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles gave loyal Mabuhay Miles Elite members an evening of fun. The event was also meant to celebrate the partnership of the two hot leaders in their respective industries. The guests came in colorful strings of beads and feather boas in keeping with the Caribbean theme of the night, dahlings.

PAL's **Ria Domingo** told us that Mabuhay Miles members may earn miles when they avail of Smart's International Services, such as roaming, texting and WAP browsing. They also earn miles by subscription to Smart Infinity, Smart Gold and Addict Mobile.

"They may fly as far as Sydney or Melbourne for free," she added.

With wine and booze flowing, prizes were raffled off and an ecstatic **Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez**, brought home a 3G-enabled Sony Ericsson M600i phone, while **Mons Romulo Tantoco, Carl David** and businessman **Bryan Doviack** were the grand winners of miles credits from Mabuhay Miles, *natch*.

Jazz legend **Richard Merk**, together with his hot band, provided New Orleans' sounds, sending the invitees to the dance floor, *palanggas*.

Henry So Uy, PAL's hotshot executive vice president for commercial group, and **Ricky Isla**, Smart's head for sales and distribution, welcomed the colorful invitees led by Mabuhay Miles' Million Miler member, **José Mari Roa.**

Uy in his welcome remarks said "adding miles is as easy as texting and calling with Smart!"

And with that in mind, I moved on to my next must-go-to happening, dahlings.

Birthday boy

My home away from home, the Pearl of the Pacific Resort and Spa, has always been the chosen venue for eye-catching spectacular weddings, unforgettable events, intimate parties and dazzling New Year's fireworks show, because of the breathtaking view it affords, *palanggas*.

Just a week ago, another fun happening took place at the Pearl when a surprise birthday bash was hosted by **Greg** and **Marilou Sanson** for their close friend, good-looking **Mike Sandro Rieta**, longtime companion of top-of-the-line (and off-the-shoulder) publicist **Louie Cruz**, *natch*!

Dynamic and hardworking **Rita Sanson** called every now and then, wishing Mike S.R. and other invitees to feel at home and enjoy themselves, since she couldn't come as she was in *Manille* because of business.

Marilou S. made all the arrangements with top chef **Elsie**, making sure everyone had a blast during the surprise party.

The invitees couldn't get enough of the fresh and huge Rockefeller oysters; Filipino Beef Stew Kaldereta-style (a favorite of Greg S.); Eggplant with Cumin (my vegetarian dish), a popular dish in the resort; Cold Korean Noodles, which **Pinky Amador** went back thrice for; Braised Pork with *Calamta* and Olives; Chili Spicy Crabs with Exotic Herbs, which is the birthday boy's fa-

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Do You Have Beautiful, Hair-Free Underarms?

Are your underarms "raise-worthy?" Or maybe you are hiding an embarrassing secret: Dark, stubbly underarms!

Perhaps you *do* remove underarm hair through shaving, waxing or plucking. That takes care of one problem…for a few days. But take a look at your armpits. Are they beautiful and smooth? Or would you be embarrassed to raise your arms in public and show them?

Amanda Griffin is not only one of the most beautiful faces in the modeling world, she also has beautiful, perfect underarms. Hers are even-toned, creaseless, smooth and hairless. A photographer even commented once, "Her armpits are nice, we don't need to Photoshop them." (*Photoshop is a method used to digitally enhance pictures.*) Amanda, who has no problem raising her arms at any given time, thanks LaserLight permanent hair removal for that.

"I used to do different methods for hair removal," Amanda reveals. "I tried things like waxing, shaving and threading. But with waxing, I'd get skin irritations from it. Sometimes salons even re-use their wax, so I'd get irritations from that. And it was just really painful. I have a low threshold for pain. As for shaving, it's one of those tedious things you have to do all the time. After I tried LaserLight, my armpits became smooth. I recommended it to my girl friends because now I don't have to worry about removing my underarm hair anymore. And I get a lot of compliments from photographers who tell me they don't need to retouch my underarms in the pictures."

While some hair removal methods eliminate unwanted hair, they may also cause trauma in the underarm skin, causing pigmentation and bumpy skin texture, termed as "chicken skin." Shaving causes ingrown hairs, especially when hairs are shaved prematurely. Waxing is not only painful, it can sometimes cause irritations and can burn the skin if not properly done or if the skin is very sensitive. This can also occur when using depilatory creams. Some ingredients may be harsh to the skin, and can leave painful rashes and a dark pigmentation.

Other hair removal methods cause trauma in the skin, causing dark underarms with bumpy "chicken skin"

The LaserLight method uses an FDA-approved diode laser that emits pulses of light energy that are absorbed by the pigment or melanin of the hair follicle. This targets the hair root and disables it from growing new hair. Clients will feel only slight stinging sensations during the treatment and a topical anesthetic may also be used to further alleviate any discomfort. An average of six to eight sessions are required to remove all the unwanted hair. The results are incomparable to those of conventional hair removal methods. Aside from the elimination of unwanted hair, the skin also becomes softer, smoother, lighter and let's not forget, as hair-free as Amanda's.

Are your underarms "raise-worthy?" If you want them to be, call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN (7546) today.

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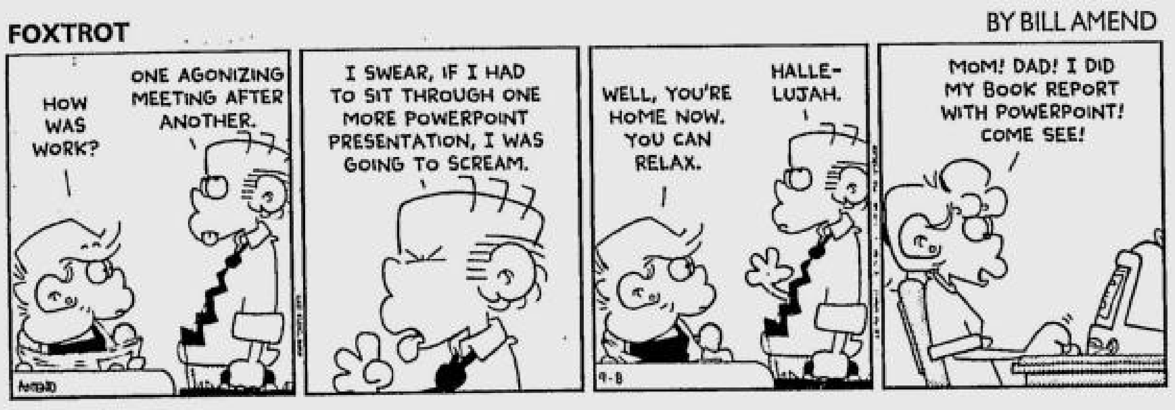
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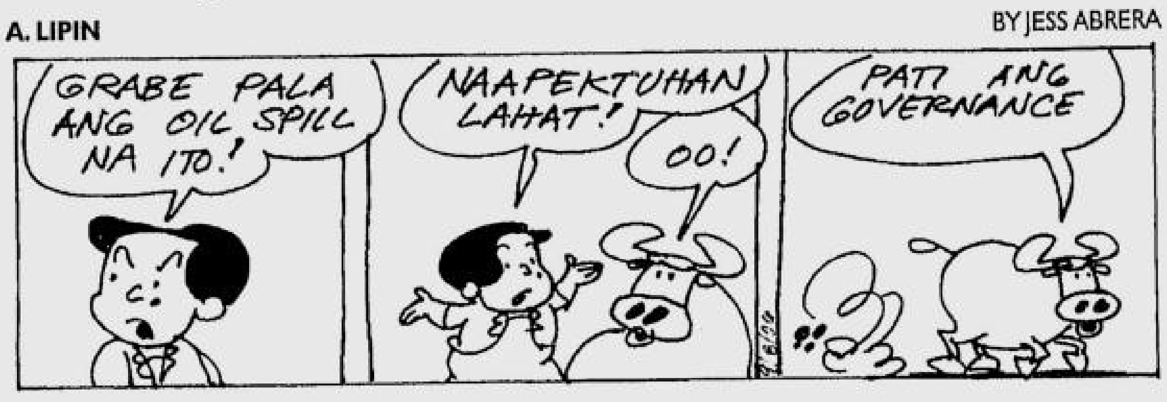
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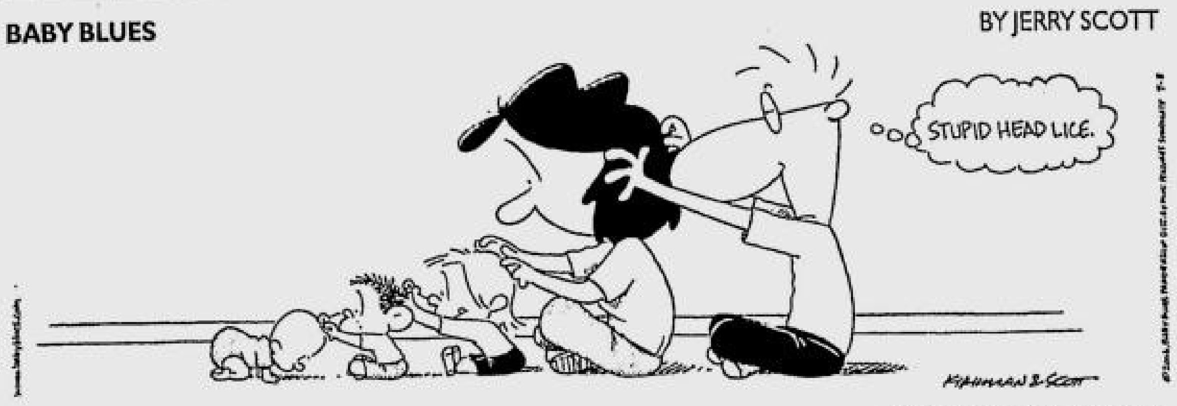
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT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KIRKMAN & SCOTT

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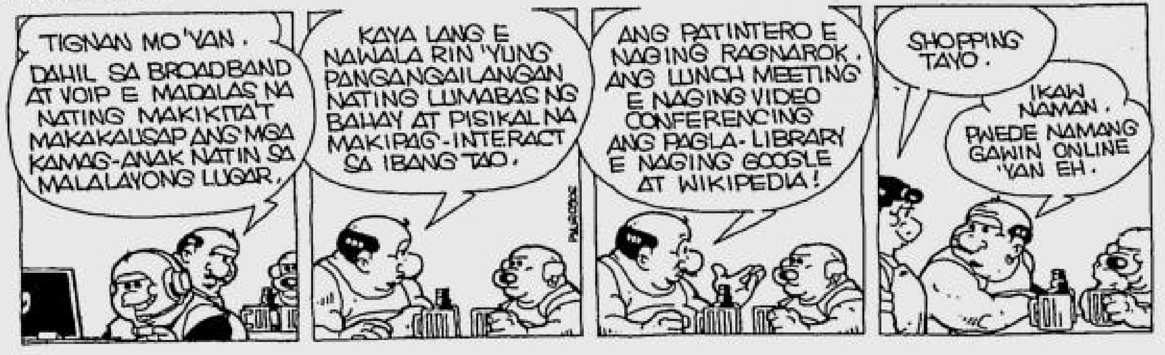
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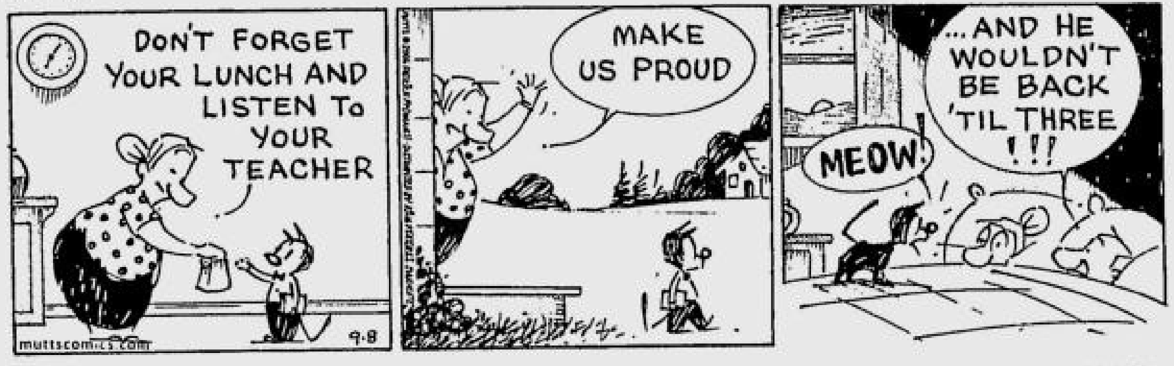
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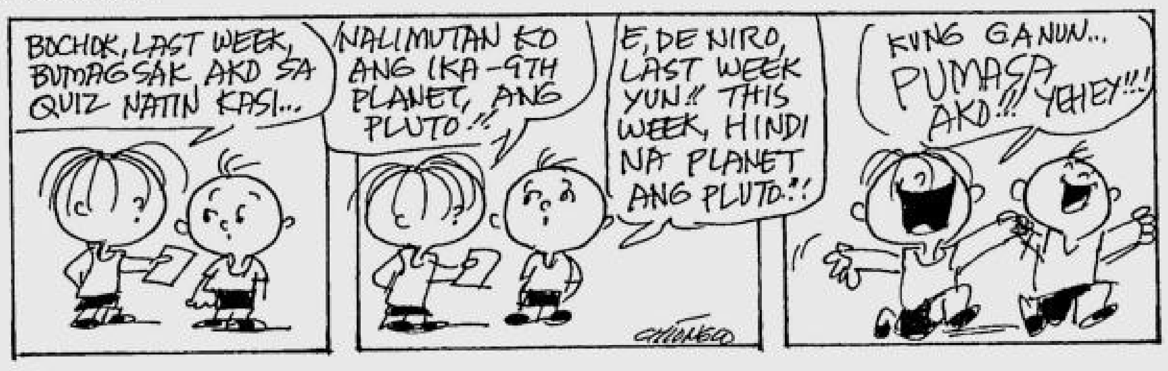
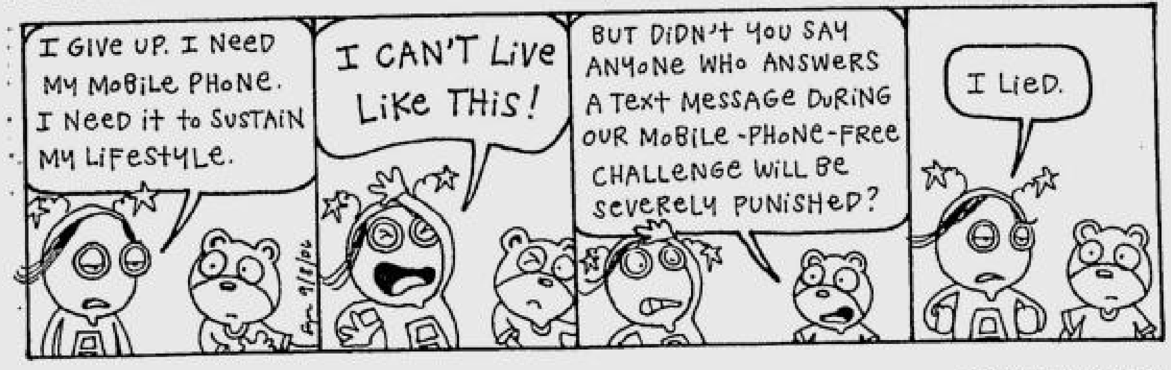
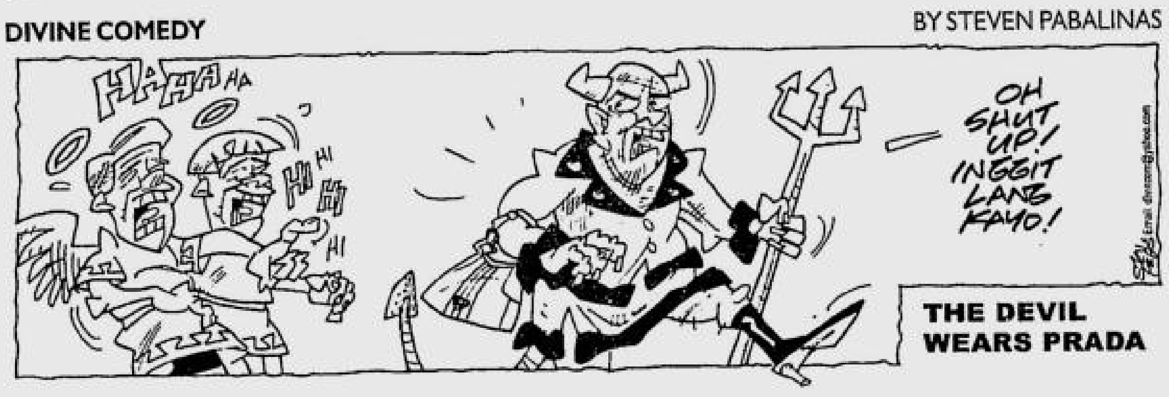

BOCHOK, LAST WEEK, BUMAGSAK AKO SA QUIZ NATIN KASI...
NALIMUTAN KO ANG IKA-9TH PLANET, ANG PLUTO!!
E, DE NIRO, LAST WEEK YUN!! THIS WEEK, HINDI NA PLANET ANG PLUTO!!
KUNG GANUN... PUMASA AKO!!! YEHEY!!!
CHIONGLO

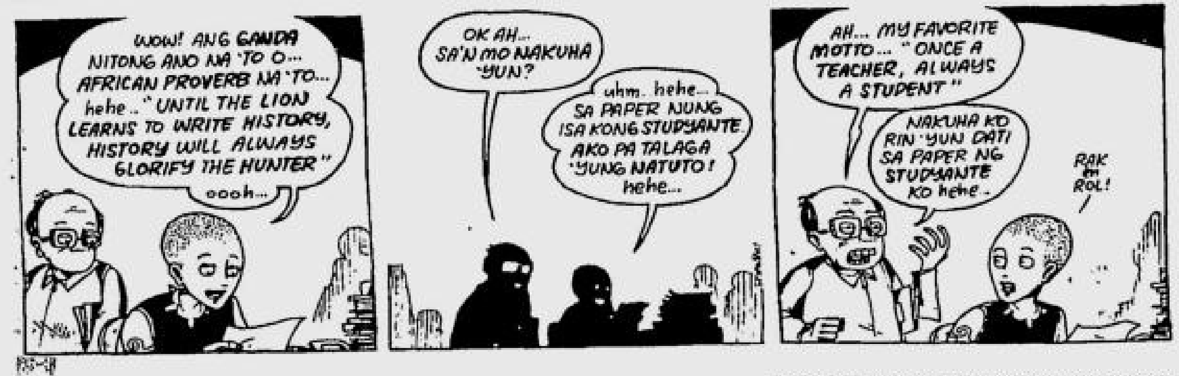
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I GIVE UP. I NEED MY MOBILE PHONE. I NEED IT TO SUSTAIN MY LIFESTYLE.
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS!
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYONE WHO ANSWERS A TEXT MESSAGE DURING OUR MOBILE-PHONE-FREE CHALLENGE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED?
I LIED.
9/8/06

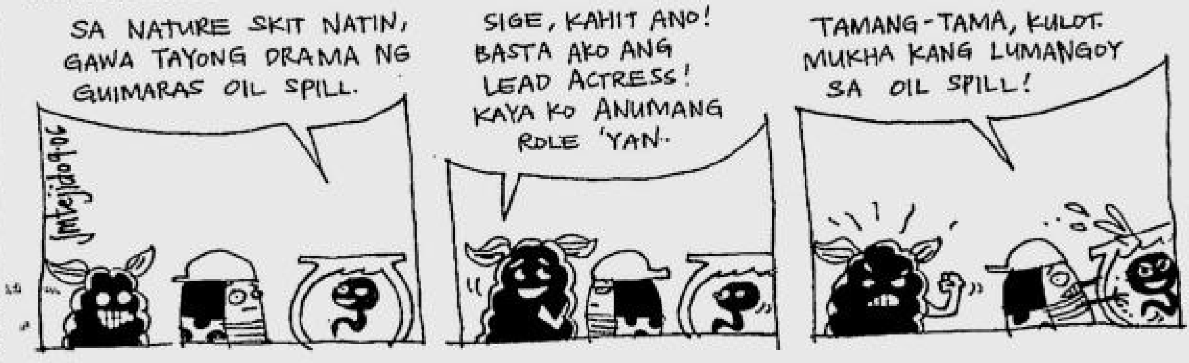
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HAHAHA HA
HI HI HI HI
OH SHUT UP! INGGIT LANG KAYO!
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

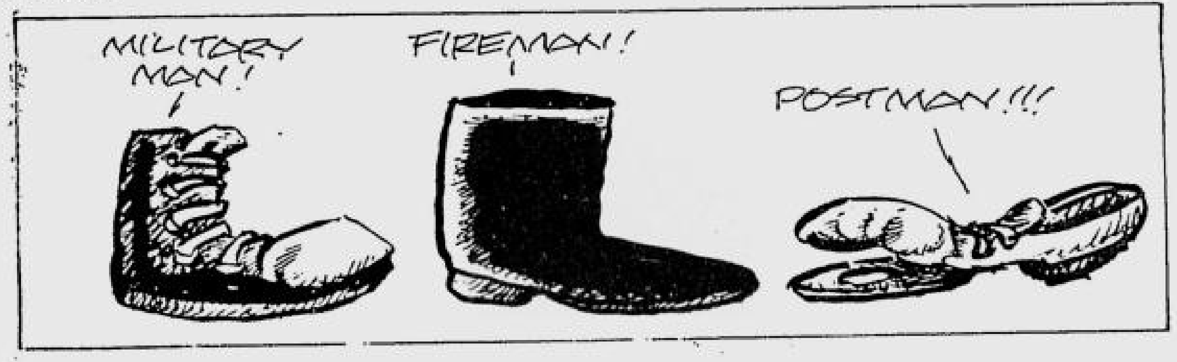
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


WOW! ANG GANDA NITONG ANO NA 'TO O... AFRICAN PROVERB NA 'TO... hehe.. "UNTIL THE LION LEARNS TO WRITE HISTORY, HISTORY WILL ALWAYS GLORIFY THE HUNTER"
oooh...
OK AH... SA'N MO NAKUHA 'YUN?
uhm. hehe... SA PAPER NUNG ISA KONG STUDYANTE AKO PA TALAGA 'YUNG NATUTO! hehe...
AH... MY FAVORITE MOTTO... "ONCE A TEACHER, ALWAYS A STUDENT"
NAKUHA KO RIN 'YUN DATI SA PAPER NG STUDYANTE KO hehe..
RAK EN ROL!

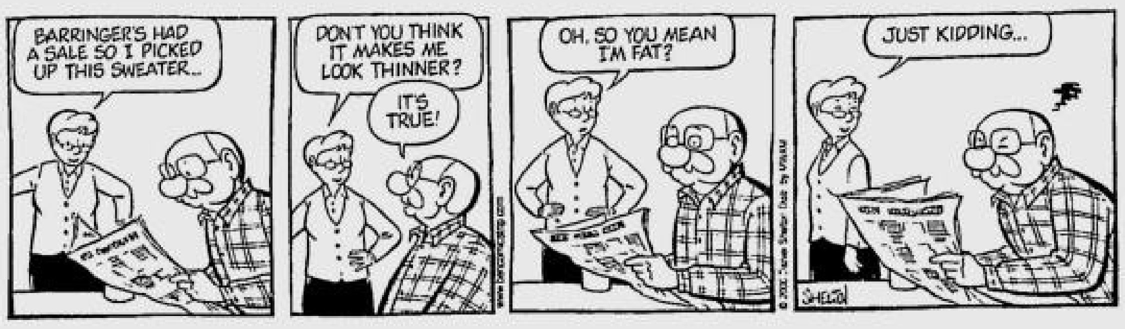
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA NATURE SKIT NATIN, GAWA TAYONG DRAMA NG GUIMARAS OIL SPILL.
SIGE, KAHIT ANO! BASTA AKO ANG LEAD ACTRESS! KAYA KO ANUMANG ROLE 'YAN.
TAMANG-TAMA, KULOT. MUKHA KANG LUMANGOY SA OIL SPILL!
jmtejido06

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MILITARY MAN!
FIREMAN!
POSTMAN!!!

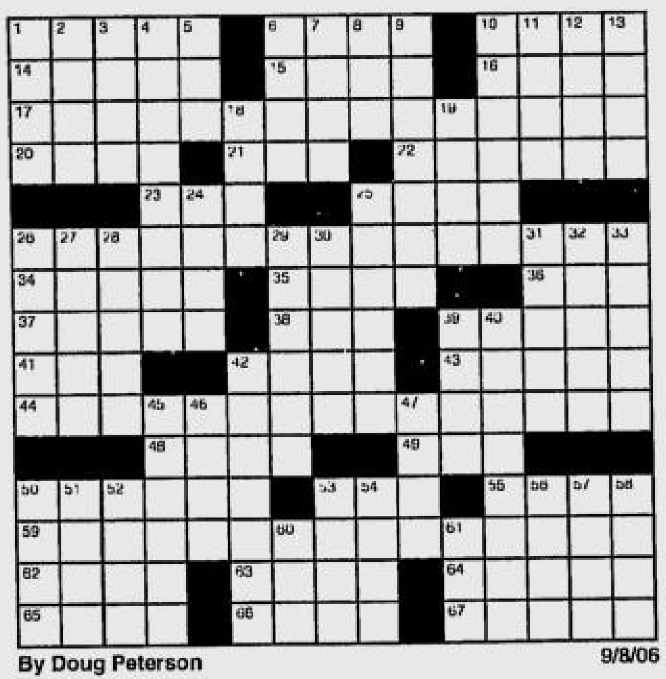
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BARRINGER'S HAD A SALE SO I PICKED UP THIS SWEATER...
DON'T YOU THINK IT MAKES ME LOOK THINNER?
IT'S TRUE!
OH, SO YOU MEAN I'M FAT?
JUST KIDDING...
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Movie pooch
6 Singer McEntire
10 PC junk mail
14 Consumed heartily
15 Monopoly token
16 __ Star State
17 Elementary math topic
20 Bureau handle
21 UFO crew
22 Tentacled freshwater polyps
23 Armada gold
25 Distinct region
26 Investors' statistic
34 Falco and McClurg
35 Stodgy one
36 Trim (off)
37 Cheerful tunes
38 Coati coat
39 "Star Trek" genre
41 School of thought
42 Make a point
43 Hurricane's aftermath
44 Leaders of a movement
48 Toward the dawn
49 Pointed tool
50 Graceful grazer
53 Gridiron meas.
55 Side of a doorway
59 Typical off-the-rack size
62 Put to sea
63 "Othello" role
64 Harebrained
65 Follow orders
66 Lobster catcher
67 Resignee of '73

DOWN
1 Lend support to
2 School collar
3 "Nautilus" skipper
4 Big Boeing
5 NYSE debut
6 Schism
7 Miscalculates
8 Amazon squeezer
9 Pizza tidbit
10 Trick pitch
11 Of low quality
12 "The King and I" role
13 Sticky wicket
18 Sign gas
19 Newcastle's river
24 Singer Diana
25 Croatia's capital
26 Sub shops
27 Pindar, for one
28 Mrs. Fred Flintstone
29 Sweat of one's brow
30 In fine fettle
31 Animated
32 Really dig
33 Momentous tales
39 "Pygmalion" dramatist
40 Pioneer in psychology
42 Dives in with gusto
45 With a deft touch
46 John of the PGA
47 Comfort
50 In that case
51 Utah city
52 __-dieu (prayer bench)
53 Hindu discipline
54 Let fall
56 King or Alda
57 Lion's do
58 Concoct
60 Armed conflict
61 Actress Scala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9/8/06

By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

H	O	S	T	■	A	E	D	E	S	■	R	A	M	S
I	O	W	A	■	S	N	A	R	K	■	E	M	I	T
T	H	E	B	E	S	T	W	A	Y	■	G	E	N	E
S	S	A	■	R	I	A	S	■	■	L	A	N	C	E
■	■	T	A	R	S	I	■	I	N	O	R	D	E	R
T	O	S	P	O	I	L	A	G	O	O	D	■	■	■
H	A	U	E	R	■	■	T	O	S	S	■	P	A	S
A	S	I	S	■	S	T	O	R	Y	■	C	O	M	A
I	T	T	■	L	O	O	M	■	■	G	A	L	E	N
■	■	■	I	S	B	Y	S	T	I	C	K	I	N	G
B	I	O	M	A	S	S	■	I	N	L	E	T	■	■
A	D	A	P	T	■	■	E	S	S	E	■	I	O	U
M	E	S	A	■	T	O	T	H	E	F	A	C	T	S
B	A	I	L	■	A	P	A	R	T	■	R	A	T	E
I	L	S	A	■	D	E	L	I	S	■	C	L	O	D

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9/8/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a creative perfectionist. Nothing is too much trouble. Your clever, articulate talents let you earn money through sales, writing, acting, marketing and speechmaking skills. You avoid unpleasantness and discord: You need love and harmony in your life. You have excellent business savvy. Increased solitude this year is your chance to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Peter Sellers, actor; Pink, singer; Patsy Cline, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Mars opposite your sign encourages conflict in your closest relationships. Knowing this, you will simply have to be more understanding, tolerant and patient. (You can do this.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the next month, you want to get organized! Paint, clean, sort, categorize and pull your act together. Give yourself the right tools to do a decent job

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What a fun-loving month ahead! Love and romance plus professional sports, the arts and playful activities with children will delight you. Enjoy yourself!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Increased activity and chaos on the home front might be challenging in the next few weeks. Hopefully, this is due to renovations or your attempt to clean up and improve something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're unusually persuasive and enthusiastic about your ideas. Perhaps this is because you strongly identify with your beliefs now. You can definitely sell, talk, teach, act and market whatever you want!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're willing to work very hard now to make money. In large measure, this is because you have big ideas about spending it. Either way, your cash-flow scene is unusually active in the next few weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Mars is now in your sign, making you more assertive and independent than usual. Because Mars rules your muscles, you want to be physically active. (Get more exercise to blow off this pent-up energy.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be aware of the activities of others. It's remotely possible that someone is working against your best interests. This is unlikely—then again, it could happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Tension with friends and groups is possible in the next few weeks. However, increased activity with groups is also highly likely. Invariably, these two are married.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ambition is aroused. You want to show the world what you can do (and you're a perfectionist). Work hard while you have this urge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're keen to travel and pursue further learning or training in some field in the next few weeks. The bottom line is simply this: You want to expand your experience of the world!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're definitely feeling more passionate now and in the next few weeks. You might also have increased responsibilities with shared property.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				2	3	8		
3				7		1		
7	6	5						
		1						8
6	5	3				4	2	9
4						6		
						9	3	5
		2		5				6
		6	7	8				

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Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/08

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	7	1	6	5	2	3	8
1	2	8	9	7	3	5	6	4
3	5	6	8	2	4	1	9	7
4	1	2	7	8	6	9	5	3
5	6	9	3	4	2	7	8	1
7	8	3	5	9	1	6	4	2
2	3	5	4	1	9	8	7	6
8	9	1	6	3	7	4	2	5
6	7	4	2	5	8	3	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

COME FLY WITH

PAL'S executive chef Ian Mckenzie and wife Helen, with Annabelle Tan-Go

SMART GALS. Gladys Co, Cherry Caluya and Jane Basa

PHILIPPINE Tatler's Anton San Diego, PAL's cybersmart Ria Domingo and Pepper Teehankee

MABUHAY Miles Elite members. Jetsetters Tessie Oca Prieto, Elizabeth Nakpil, Sylvia Carrion and Mia Legarda

Fun at the 'mardi gras'

From page D1

vorite dish; and crispy, yummy *lechon, palanggas*.

Après dinner, it was karaoke time, which just went on and on and on till Filipino breakfast was served for the night owls. After all, dahlings, in Boracay, no event ends before sunrise, *'di bala*!

SANDRO Rieta and Louie Cruz

MARILOU and Greg Sanson

Pampanga food fest

It was as if the whole of Pampanga's creamiest set had arrived in full typhoon force during the opening day of the "Manyaman," a Pampango food festival, at the Captain's Bar of the elegant Mandarin Hotels.

The tribute to Pampanga, was part of the hotel's program to promote Filipino heritage, *palanggas*.

Hotshots such as Rep. **Mikey Arroyo**; Vice Gov. **Yeng Guiao** and his nice wife, **Jenny**; San Fernando Mayor **Oscar Rodriguez** and Councilor **Jimmy Lazatin** were among those who gave a toast at the opening, which had the support of the Department of Tourism, *natch*.

The superbly prepared variety of yummies at the long buffet spread by Fisherman's Grill Bar and Restaurant, owned by **Eddie** and **Malou Tiongson**, had tons of the invitees going back for seconds and even thirds, dahlings.

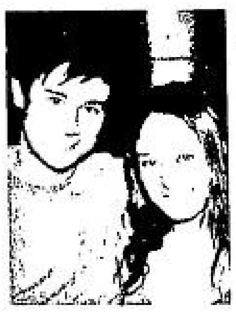
Handsome **David Thomas**, executive assistant manager-food and beverage, stood as host in place of Mandarin GM **Helmut Gaisberger**, while his wife **Vina**, looking fab from her Canada trip, was a fantastic host, *palanggas*.

JOAQUIN Gonzalez, Hans Cho and Alfredo Rocca

In-demand landscape designer **Jorge Lazatin** kept his phone lines busy rounding up relatives and friends; so did top-of-the-line Kapampangan food author Doña **Africa Reynoso, Corito Panlilio Lim** and **Mercy Tuason.**

The event was held primarily with the goal of reviving the famous Mancomunidad Pampagueño of days gone by. Mancomunidad had its last ball in 1964. The group hopes to revive the ball by the end of the year to raise funds to build the San Fernando Museum, with the help of Corito's parents, **Loleng Panlilio** and husband **Pablo**, who was Mancomunidad's first Manila president, dahlings.

Mandarin Oriental's "Manyaman" and its other food festivals are always a smashing success, *palanggas*.



GABBY Drillon, Katrina Halili

ODY Tolentino

RIBBON-cutting for "Manyaman—A taste of Pampanga" food festival: Eddie Tiongson, Pampanga Vice Gov. Yeng Guiao, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, Malou Tiongson and Mandarin's David Thomas

DIEHARD Pampangueña Corito Panlilio Lim and Alu Suarez

CHARISSE Chuidian and Lito Panlilio

BLANCHE Gallardo; Sonia Roco; the hotel's first lady, Vina Gaisberger; and "In My Basket" gal Lydia Castillo

SAN FERNANDO Mayor Oscar Rodriguez and Ivan Henares

***MARDI** gras* guests. Evelina Villegas, Espie Herrera, Marilou Mendoza, Olivia Reyes and John Herrera

PAL'S eye-catching Noella dela Rosa and TJ Javier

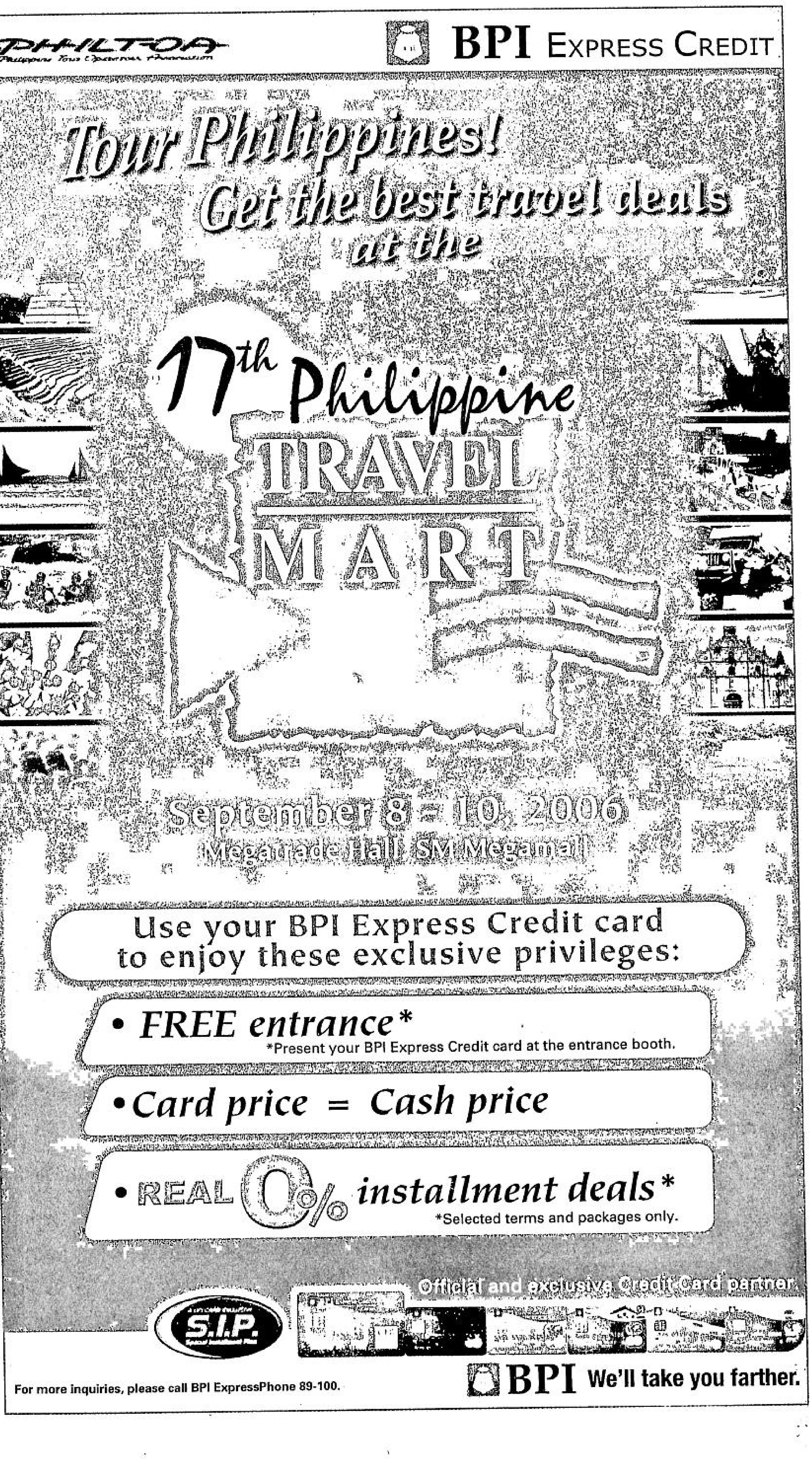
PAL'S Eileen Galindez and Mabuhay Miles Elite member Nympha Yatco

WINNER. Gorgeous Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales

HSBC'S Tessa Cuenca

WINNER Bryan Doviack

PALS's FELIX Cruz and winner Mons Romulo Tantoco



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KC
oncepcion
d Stacey
Marcelo

STEFANO Gabbana shows off his new timepiece.

Tim Yap adds 'watch designer' to his long list of credentials with the debut of his limited-edition ODM watch

Filipino time

By Alex Y. Vergara

FROM "EVENTOLOgist" to creative director of INQUIRER Super, Tim Yap recently added "watch designer" to his long list of credentials with the debut of his limited-edition ODM watch.

Named after the media icon, the white "Tim Yap" watch is a spruced-up version of ODM's award-winning digital timepiece with a statement on world peace.

This time, however, Yap overhauled the message and the unit's appearance for a decidedly Filipino flavor. For one, the words "I'm super proud to be Pinoy" flash on the digital screen during its "resting" stage.

"I was inspired by popular colored bands," says Yap. "They all say something about their wearers' advocacies. This watch is my version."

Yap took his statement a notch higher by collaborating with graphic designers from Team Manila to come up with a "pixelated" rendition of the Philippine map, found on the watch's left strap.

"It's a perfect conversation piece," says Yap, who first wore it during its launch in Paris, where ODM is headquartered. "Some foreigners wondered what those unusual shapes were."

The person across you would have to be blind to miss them, as they're quite visible if you wear the watch on your left wrist.

TIM Yap at the Philippine Embassy grounds in Paris

Some thought the camouflage-like dots were abstract figures. One correctly guessed they were some sort of map, but he mistook them for Brazil!

Yap's attempt at being literal left a few other people scratching their heads after reading what was on the watch's right strap: "Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, Super Pilipinas, +63."

Yap wasn't born in 1963. The numbers simply correspond to our country code. "Super," of course, describes his country, his countrymen and his favorite section.

"I want to instill confidence among Filipinos," he says. "Wherever they go, whatever they do, they're super Pinoy!"

Being the consummate marketing man, Yap didn't miss a beat in telling others what the splotches were. He then went on to regale them with stories of how beautiful his home country was.

It didn't hurt that some Parisians were willing to shell out several euros for the watch. For added impact, Yap timed his launch on Philippine Independence Day this year. (The watch retails locally for P5,250 a piece at all L Time Studio branches.)

Yap readily admits that this isn't the first, nor will it be the last, of its kind. In fact, he toyed with several design ideas—from diamonds to checkered prints, light bulbs to the country's tri-colors—before making a decision.

"I soon realized that they had all been done before," he says. "Jaime Zobel, for instance, worked with Swatch a few years ago with a commemorative piece inspired by the Philippine flag."

Rather than lose heart, Yap took such setbacks as sure signs that he was on the right track. He finally hit on the right idea by staying close to home.

These days, Yap is working on his second watch, which he hopes will land on the display cases of Collette boutique in Paris. He has also been busy making side trips to Shanghai to audition for a movie role opposite a Chinese-American actress.

If Lady Luck smiles again on Yap, you'll be seeing him anew sometime next year in France. Not in Paris, but mostly likely in Cannes. Stay tuned.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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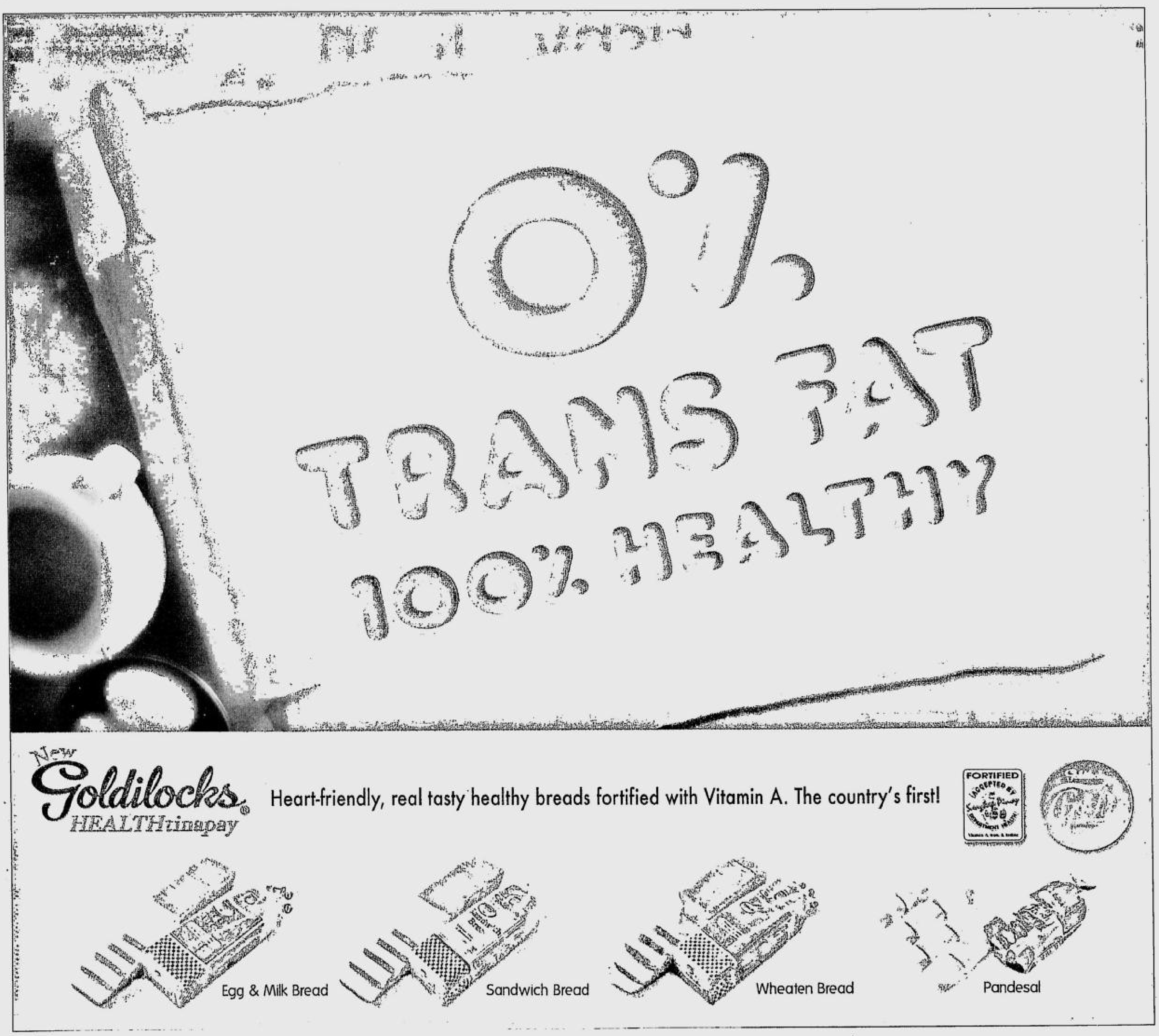

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LifeStyle

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Contributing editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
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FASHION

Gold rush

PHOTOGRAPHY LOPE NAVO
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA
AND TINA VILLEGAS FOR SHU UEMURA
HAIR BY NANTE
MODEL MILLENA, AHENSYÁ MODELO

DEBBIE Co velvet brocade kimono dress (tel. 0917-8334476), Maud maroon lace pants (available at R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall), Solea blue velvet and gold strap shoes

IN THIS ISSUE

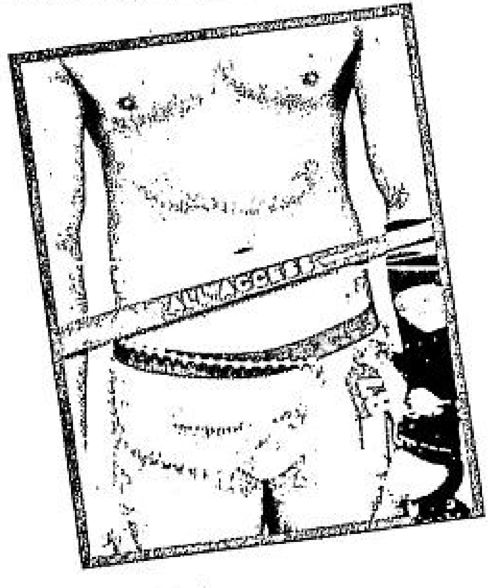
VERONICA tote, P1,100

▨ **GO WET and wild** /E3

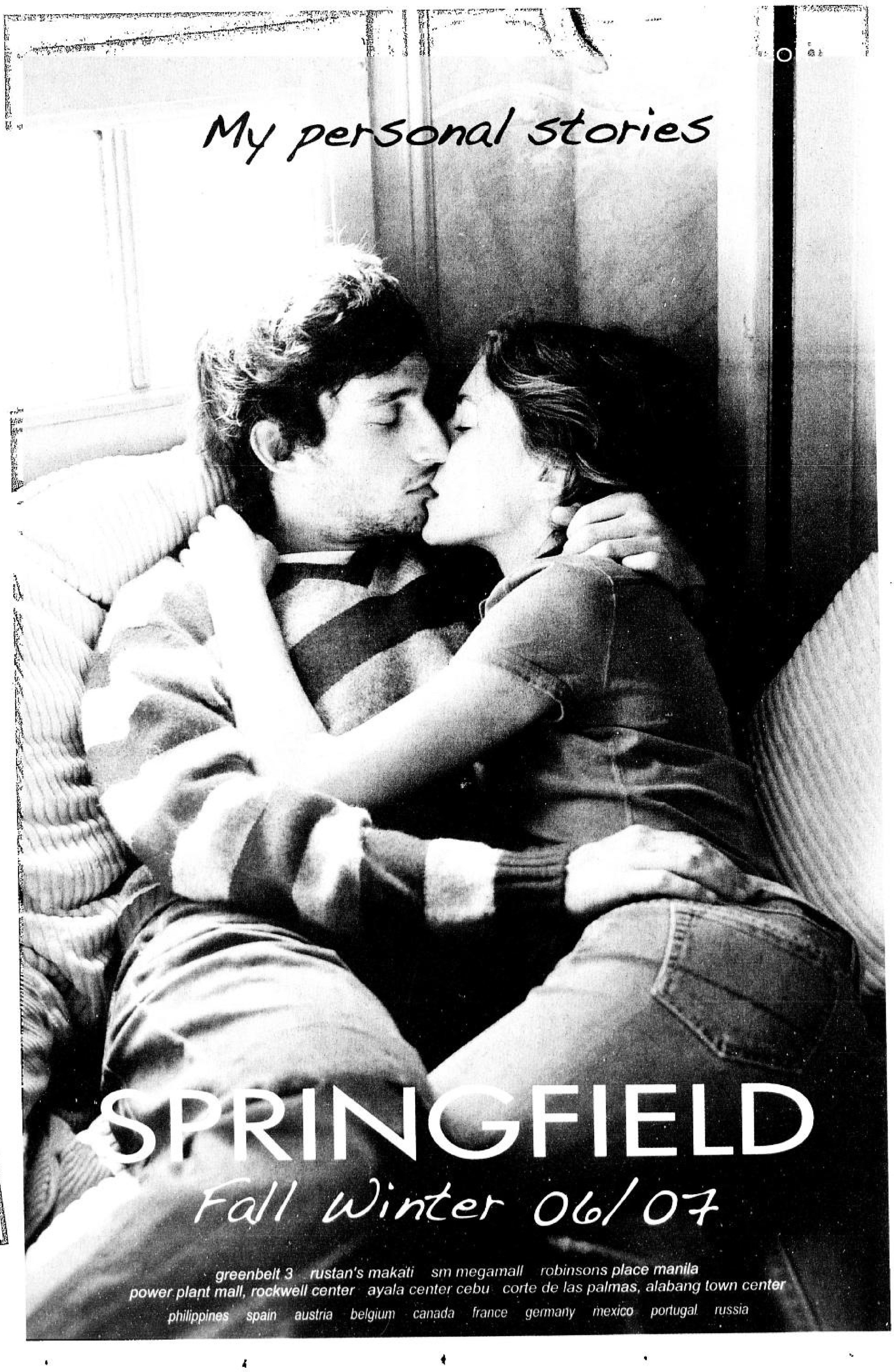
ARE YOU READY?

▨ **BE A pretty boy** /E5

▨ **TRAVEL in comfort and style** /E4

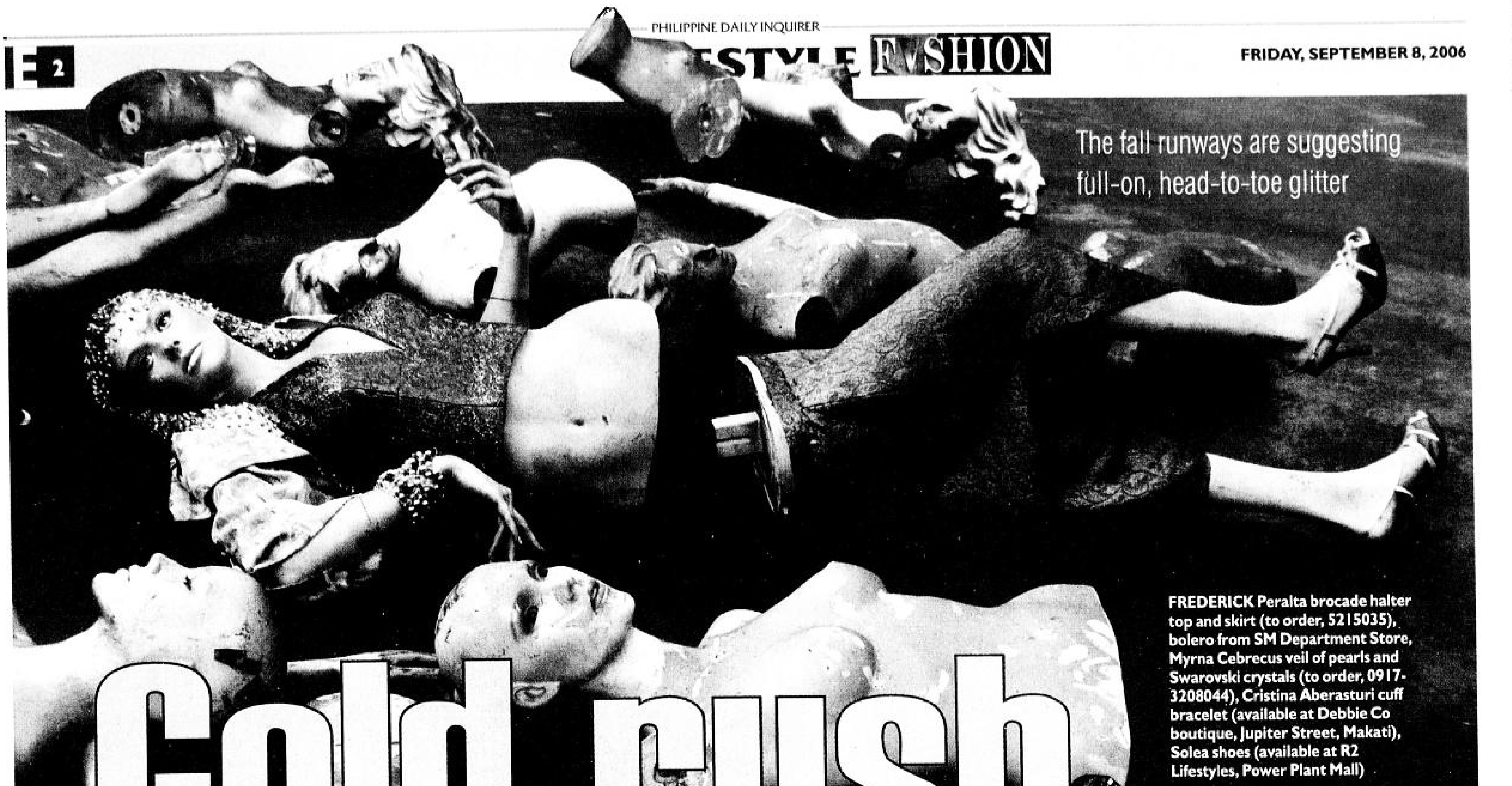


▨ **REVEL in your all-access pass** /E6


My personal stories

SPRINGFIELD
Fall Winter 06/07

greenbelt 3 rustan's makati sm megamall robinsons place manila
power plant mall, rockwell center ayala center cebu corte de las palmas, alabang town center
philippines spain austria belgium canada france germany mexico portugal russia



The fall runways are suggesting full-on, head-to-toe glitter

Gold rush

FREDERICK Peralta brocade halter top and skirt (to order, 5215035), bolero from SM Department Store, Myrna Cebrecus veil of pearls and Swarovski crystals (to order, 0917-3208044), Cristina Aberasturi cuff bracelet (available at Debbie Co boutique, Jupiter Street, Makati), Solea shoes (available at R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall)

By Cheche V. Moral

CONTORTED LIMBS, DEfaced mannequin heads and torsos, disembodied figures juxtaposed with overtly beautiful shiny objects—surreal images that exhort the sensibilities to mine things of great beauty and value from a colossal heap of the hideous.

While injecting metallic dazzle to your holiday wardrobe isn't exactly as mystifying as a Salvador Dali painting, gold digging (pardon the pun), at least for this opulent trend, isn't as thorny as panning for that prized element on a river.

The fall runways are suggesting full-on, head-to-toe glitter. But even as this is the easiest route to adopting the trend, this isn't exactly very realistic to the Everywoman. Ergo, you have to look beyond the exterior sheen to jump in on this trend.

The rich textures and patterns on oriental fabrics like brocade can conjure up the same measure of lavish luxury that a magnificent swatch of lame does. Gold satin is another fine option. A subtler choice for the shimmer-shy would be to pick clothes not necessarily made of sparkly materials (think jersey, cotton and wool), but in golden colors. Pieces in yellow-toned hues like mustard, chartreuse and lemon, to the richer honey and bronze shades, can summon the same sumptuous feel proposed by this trend.

Metallics can also be had in smaller doses that come from embroidery or other decorative trims and buttons, or from other forms of tinsel like sequins and pailletes. The object is to infuse some degree of extravagance into your holiday look, so you can opt to work a few shiny key pieces into your wardrobe—a jeweled bag, metallic footwear or belt, bold baubles faux or the real thing.

Don't be literal—glimmer doesn't come just from gold. Try something in silver, gunmetal or copper shades. After all, what was it they said—not all that glitters is gold? Or something like that. You get the drift.

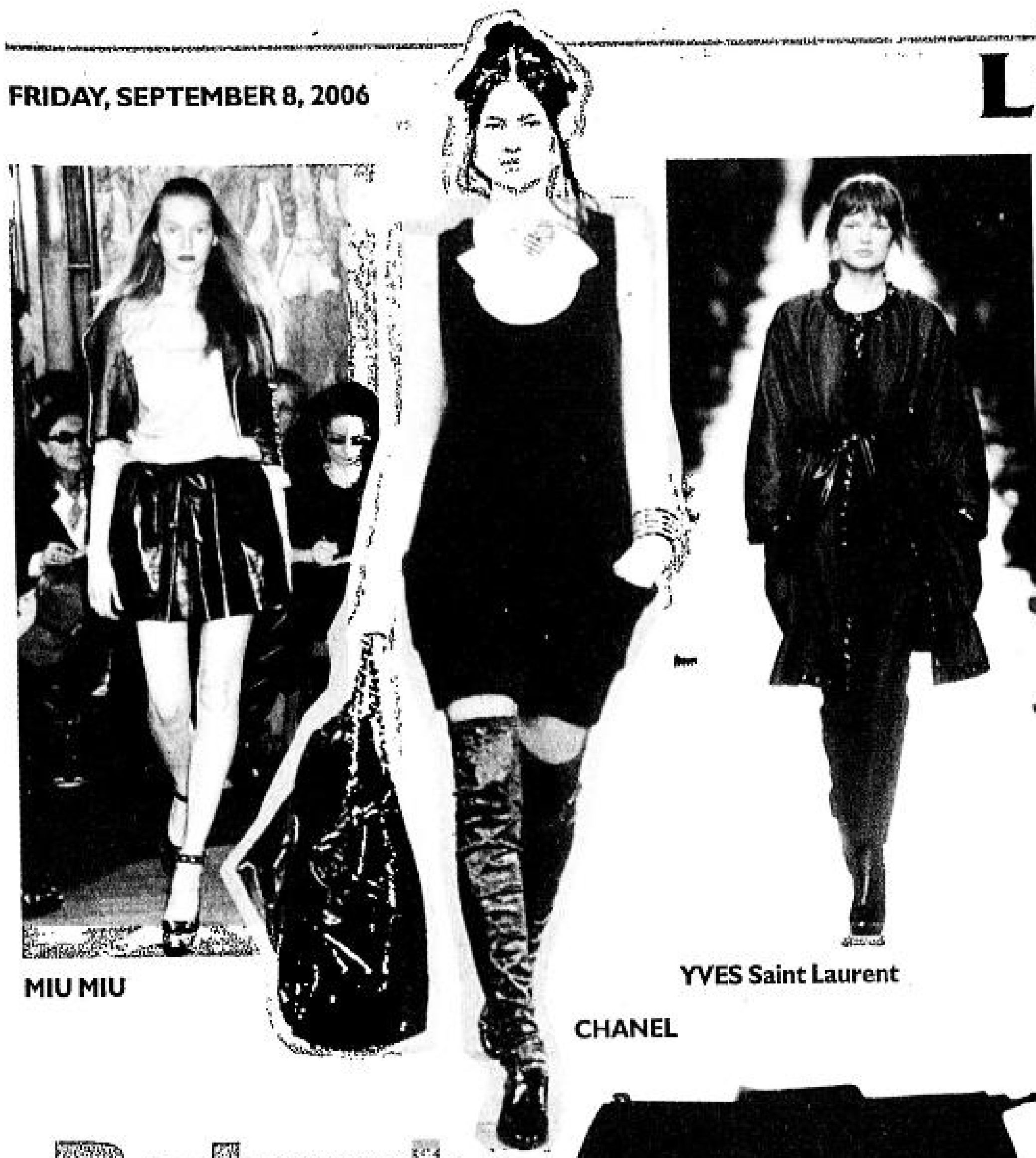
CAMADIV beaded white crochet choker (available at R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall), Eric Pineda French Rococo corset (to order, 7402004), Cristina Aberasturi cuff bracelet (available at Debbie Co boutique)

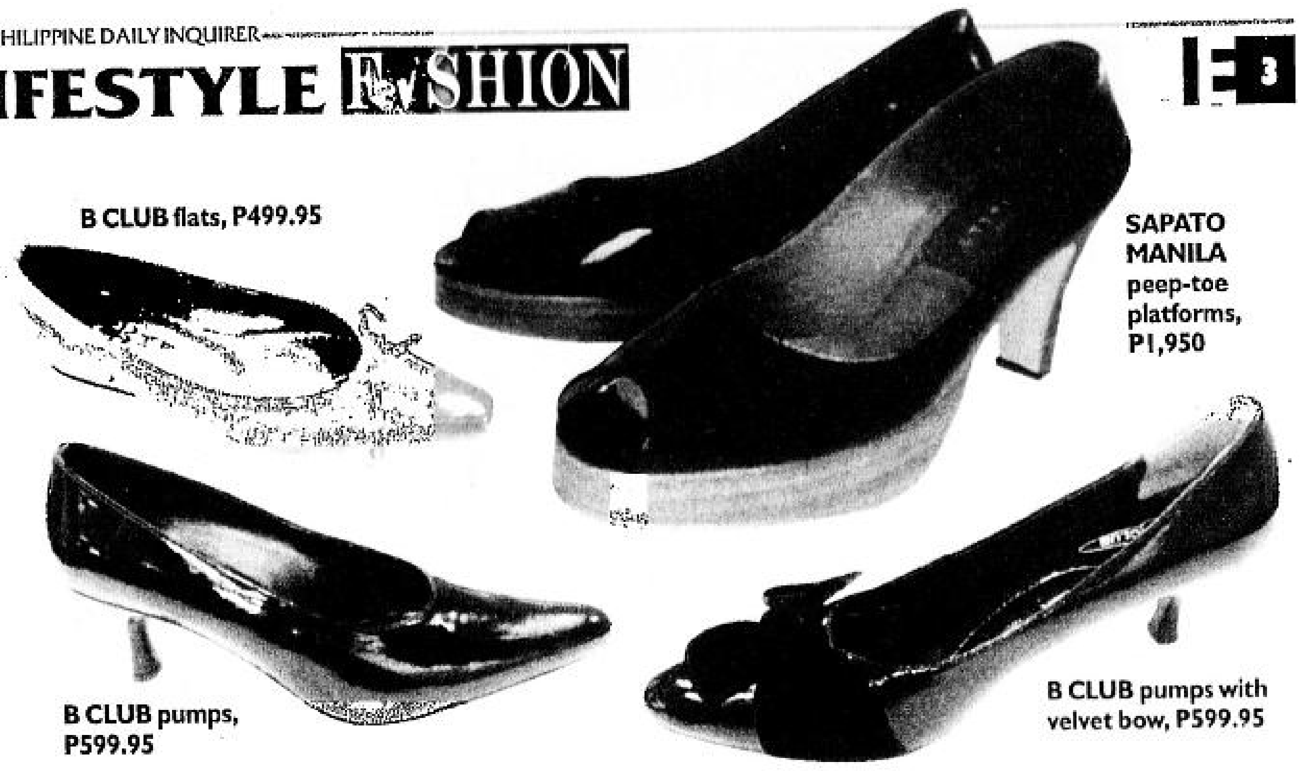
LILIBETH Campos beaded raffia bag (available at Debbie Co boutique), Camadiv beaded velvet wrist band (available at R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall)

RONALD Enrico dress (to order, 0920-9286238)

KATHANG Kamay wire bib neckpiece (available at Debbie Co boutique), Eric Pineda green corset, lace top from SM Department Store, Anthology reworked kimono miniskirt (available at R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall)

PHOTOGRAPHY LOPE NAVO
(WWW.LOPENAVO.NET)
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA
AND TINA VILLEGAS FOR SHU UEMURA
HAIR BY NANTE
MODEL MILLENA/AHENSYA MODELO

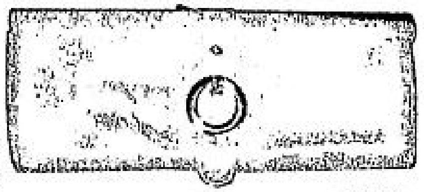

MIU MIU
CHANEL
YVES Saint Laurent


B CLUB flats, P499.95
SAPATO MANILA peep-toe platforms, P1,950
B CLUB pumps, P599.95
B CLUB pumps with velvet bow, P599.95

Patent (im)pending

By Donna Cuna-Pita, *Contributor*
RUNWAY PHOTOS FROM WWW.STYLE.COM

HDY clutch bag, P495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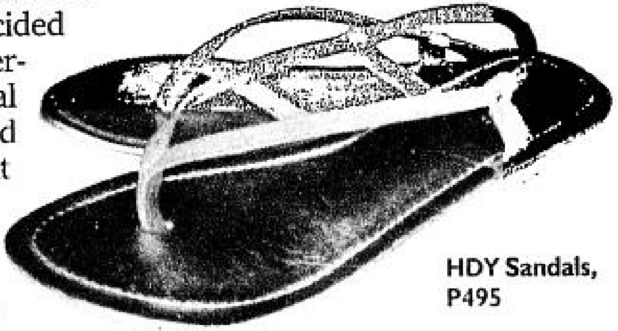

HDY Sandals, P495

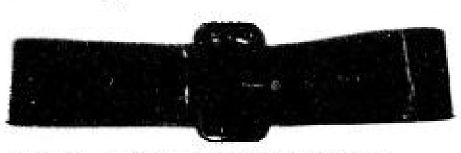
SHINY, SHIMMERING AND splendid patent leather has once again decided to reveal its reflective persona as a natural essential element of the '60s Mod trend. At once innocent (read school-girl shoes) and skanky (read double-life coed's heels), patent leather takes a bit more courage to wear once you've graduated from your sailor-collared white blouse and gingham skirt.

Best applied to rêtro shapes (peep-toe heels of '50s pin-up girls) and feminine, girly clothes (wide patent belt with either pencil-cut or full skirt), patent gives an interesting twist to otherwise predictable and stereotyped outfits. A traditional corporate outfit can look stronger and sexier with a pair of pointy patent sky-high .pumps. The shiny finish also makes it perfect for space-agey trench coats or the Halloween classic Catwoman bodysuit and "The Matrix" ensembles.

As with any other shiny material, this should be applied in small doses, unless you have a natural flair for carrying iris-contracting ensembles. Enjoy it in classic black and cherry red, or even in white and punchy colors.

Patent needs special care, as it has the tendency to absorb stains and stick to other materials, especially when in storage. So keep your patent items covered and separated from your other accessories to maintain their light and eye-catching trademark.

MIMI bag, P795


BELT from SM Department Store, P199.75

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

PHILIPPINE TATLER
POWER ISSUE
The 5th Anniversary

POWER ISSUE
OUR ANNUAL LIST OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTRY
IN THE BEGINNING
FIND OUT HOW THE *PHILIPPINE TATLER* ALL STARTED
A HERO REMEMBERED
A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE PHILIPPINES GREATEST HEROES, NINOY AQUINO
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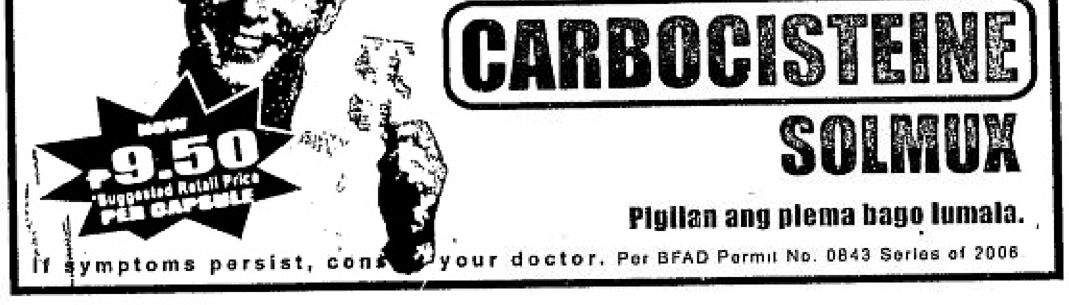
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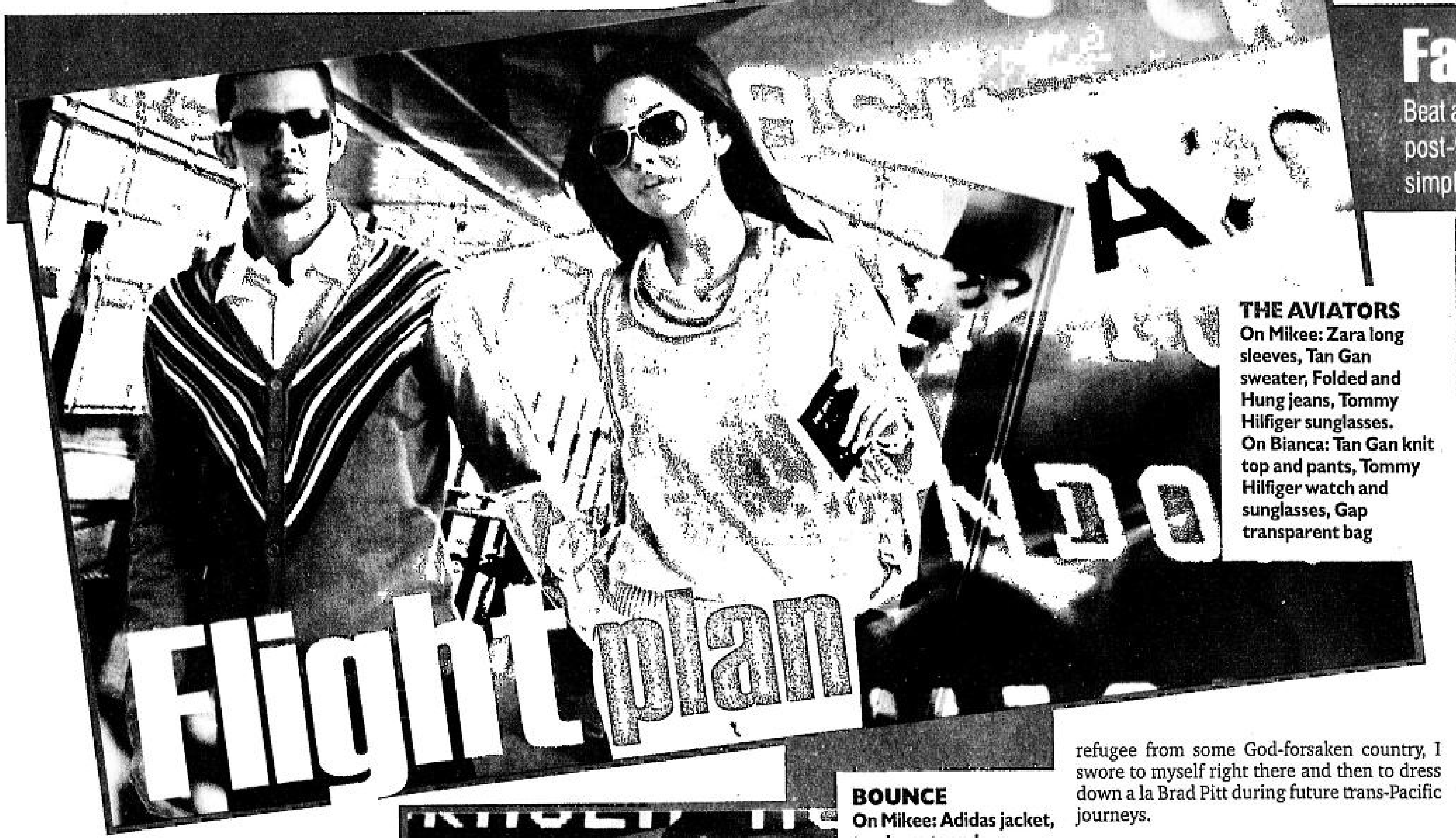

Flight plan

THE AVIATORS
On Mikee: Zara long sleeves, Tan Gan sweater, Folded and Hung jeans, Tommy Hilfiger sunglasses. On Bianca: Tan Gan knit top and pants, Tommy Hilfiger watch and sunglasses, Gap transparent bag

By Alex Y. Vergara

LONG-HAUL AIR TRAVEL can be quite an experience for most Filipinos, especially those bound for the United States and Europe for the first time.

You can conjure up all sorts of fantasies you want before boarding that "inaugural" flight—from finally meeting Mr. Right while lining up the toilet to impressing the ladies by vanquishing a swarm of poisonous snakes in time for dinner. But whatever your state of mind is on the ground, it pays to step on board in comfort and style (never one in lieu of the other).

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Bleary eyed and looking like a well-dressed refugee from some God-forsaken country, I swore to myself right there and then to dress down a la Brad Pitt during future trans-Pacific journeys.

BOUNCE
On Mikee: Adidas jacket, track pants and sneakers, Tim Yap watch at ODM, Samsonite luggage at Travel Club. On Bianca: Adidas shirt, jacket and yoga pants, DKNY suede slip-ons, headband at Villareal bags

Paramount concern

Indeed, dressing up sensibly during long-haul flights, especially in the wake of all these terrorist threats and the corresponding knee-jerk reactions they bring, has become of paramount concern, particularly among inexperienced travelers.

Adding to our long list of woes, the green-passport holder (that's you and me, my fellow Filipinos) is more often than not viewed with suspicion abroad. Unlike our American counterparts, we can't put on, say, a hideous-looking sweatshirt with matching sweatpants and expect to breeze through immigration.

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E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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MAKEUP ERICA PAREDES 09278142678
SITTINGS EDITOR ALEX VERGARA
MODELS BIANCA VALERIO (PMAP) MIKEE CARREON (PMAP)

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Beat airport hassles, post-9/11, by keeping it soft, simple and detachable

WHEN CHOOSING WHAT outfit to wear on a long-haul flight (eight hours or more), post-9/11, the operative words are: keep it soft, simple and easily detachable.

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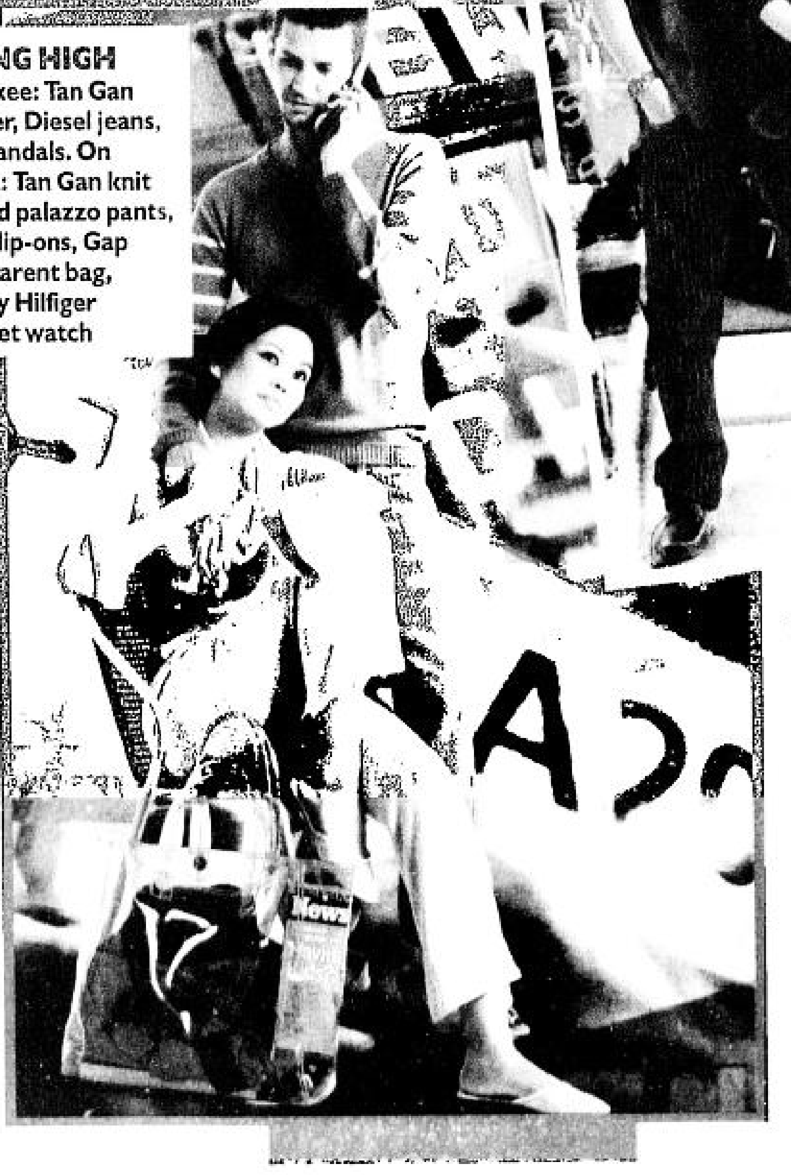

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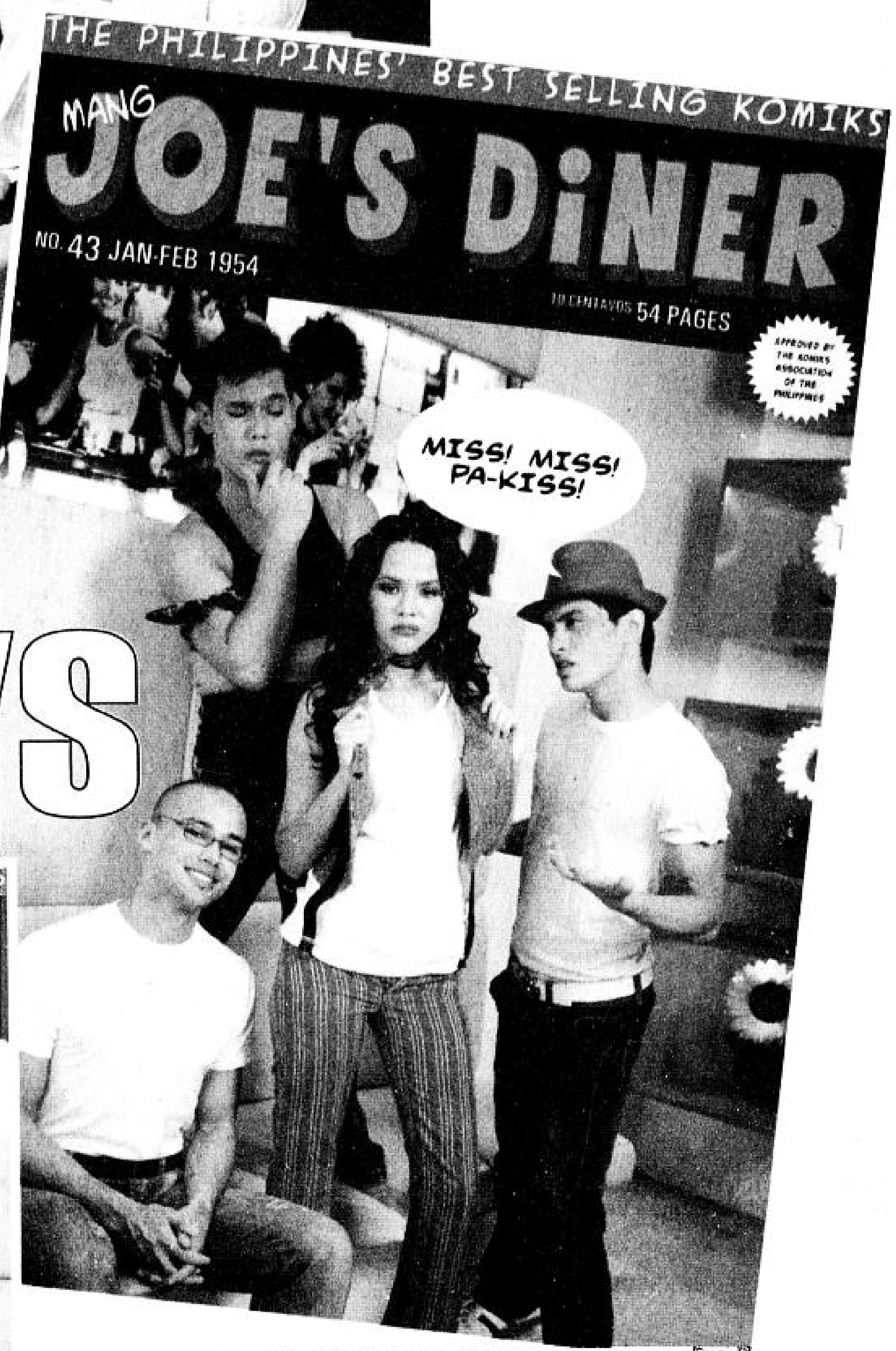
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

MALAKI DIBA!?!
HEY! MY BRAIN'S BIGGER THAN THAT!
ANG PUSO KO MAS MALAKI BECAUSE OF YOU!

In-your-face femininity in the form of the ubiquitous dress can now take a back seat to more savvy menswear looks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NO. 43 JAN-FEB 1954
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APPROVED BY THE KOMIKS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
MISS! MISS! PA-KISS!

ON HER: Wildflower fatigue tank top, P370; beaded miniskirt, P1,899; and leggings with lace trim, P439; all from The Ramp at Crossings

One of the boys

FULL-ON FEMININITY HAS been a major trend in fashion for several seasons now. The dress in all its glorious incarnations is the superstar of the catwalk. And women swathe themselves in tea, prom, wrap, strapless and baby-doll varieties, to name but a few.

Sartorial wisdom indicates that women feel dressier in a dress. However, this season, perhaps it's time to experiment with a totally different look.

Enter tomboy chic, which takes its styling cues from the boys. This is undeniably the best time to revive the so-called traditional tomboy look, as masculine styles dominate the catwalks.

Paul Smith has created a whole wardrobe of classic menswear restructured for women. Jill Sanders' Raf Simmons, whose background is in menswear, also presented chic razor-thin trousers, while Stella McCartney debuted her big boyfriend jacket that could be easily worn over jeans or trousers.

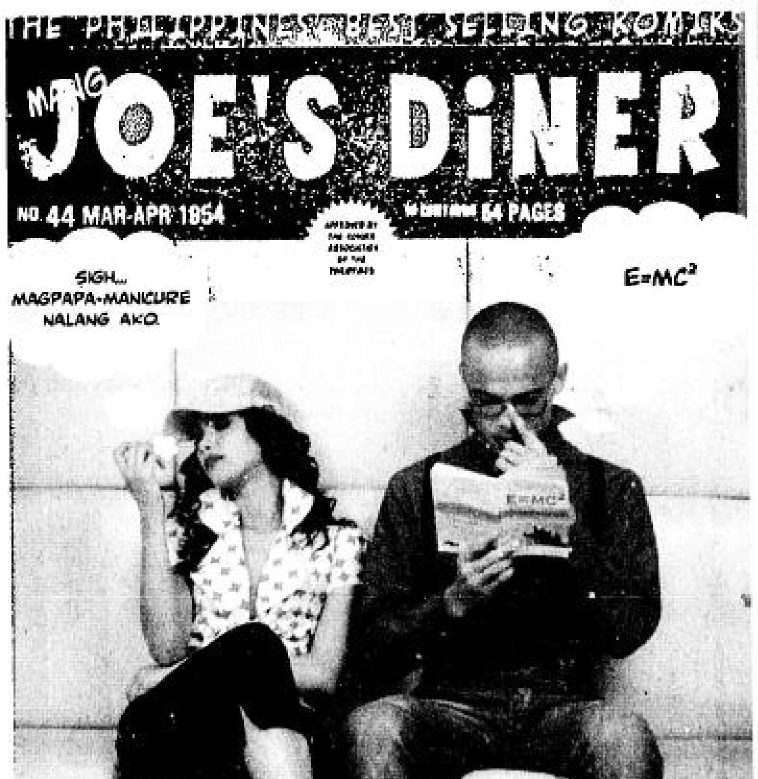
If you want to adapt the trend, you can look to Katherine Hepburn or aviatrix Amelia Earhart for a bit of inspiration. Fashion must never be taken literally, though, so when following any trend, it's always best to choose certain items that you can easily incorporate into and use to modernize your wardrobe.

A waistcoat, otherwise known as a vest, can be worn with tank tops and trousers or basic polo tops and blue jeans. Or trousers, whether loose or lean and mean, can be worn with simple crew-neck tees or '50s-style men's knit tops. Accessories such as ties, newsboy caps and suspenders (not worn together) can also add masculine flair.

Of course, it's always interesting to create a bit of irony by combining feminine and masculine elements. Menswear trousers matched with a fluid, ruffled or lacy top can add softness to an otherwise smart, crisp look. Spiked heels can also sex up a jacket and skinny trousers, as opposed to, say, preppy loafers or sneakers. It's also good to remember that, oftentimes, long wavy hair or luscious red lips are all it takes to add a womanly edge to a testosterone-driven look.

In-your-face femininity in the form of the ubiquitous dress can now take a back seat to more savvy menswear looks. So, hike up those collars and button down those waistcoats to be one of the boys this season.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph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54 PAGES
SIGH... MAGPAPA-MANICURE NALANG AKO.
E=MC²

ON HER: Faith Hope Love cropped printed shirt, P599, and tank top, P280; Rocco slim pants, P1,090, all from The Ramp at Crossings

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

PHOTOGRAPHY PAT DY
STYLING DONNA CUNA-PITA
MAKEUP BARBI CHAN OF MAYBELLINE NEW YORK
HAIR RAYMOND SANTIAGO
MODELS MELISSA FRYE, T MODELS; RED AND DON, MERCATOR MODELS; AND WILL DEVAUGHN
GRAPHIC DESIGN AJ DIMARUCOT
WWW.COLLISION-THEORY.COM
SHOT IN SEGAFREDO ZANETTI ESPRESSO, GREENBELT 2, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI, TEL. 7574058

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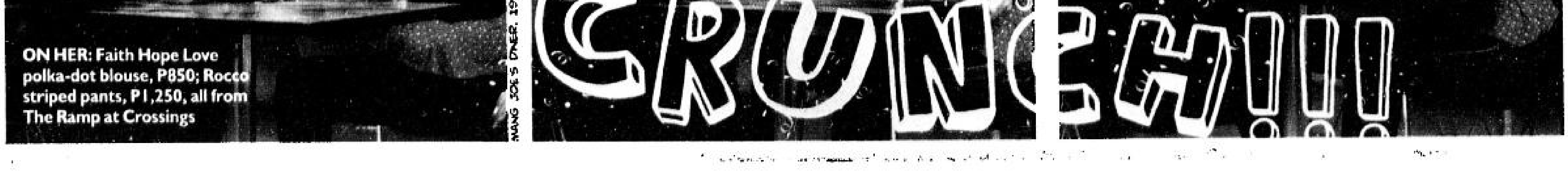
ON HER: Faith Hope Love tank top, P280; Rocco plaid vest, P970; Wildflower black shorts with brass studs, P840, all from The Ramp at Crossings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ON HER: Faith Hope Love polka-dot blouse, P850; Rocco striped pants, P1,250, all from The Ramp at Crossings

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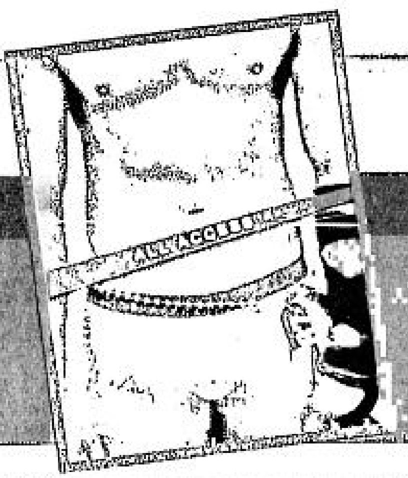

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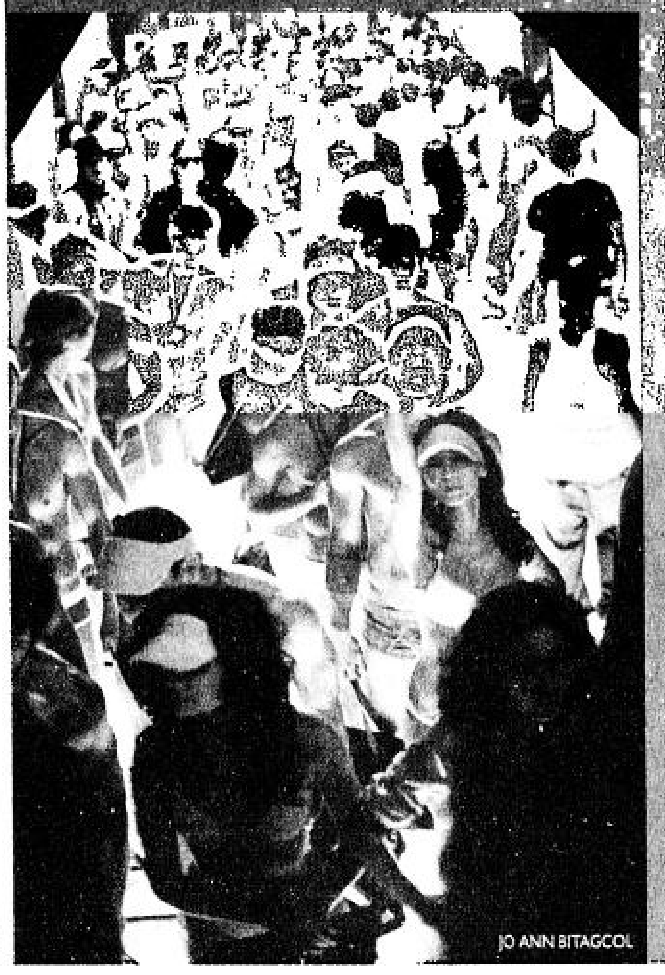
JO ANN BITAGCOL



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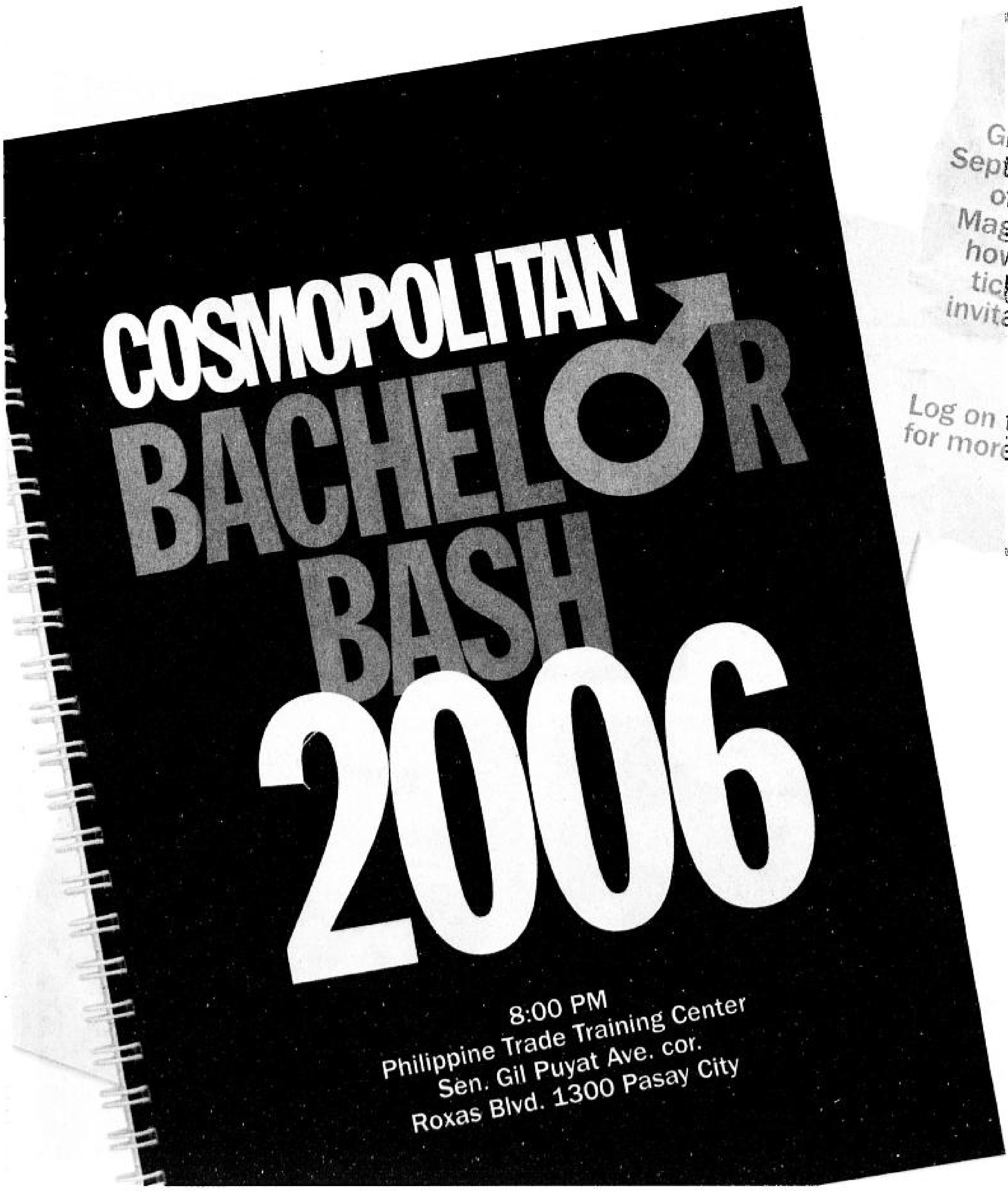

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'Maxi' is RP bet in 2007 Oscars

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S FINAL AND OFFICIAL.

The Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) has chosen an indie movie, ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" as the Philippine entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 79th Oscar Awards set in February next year in Los Angeles.

The news was confirmed by FAP secretary-general Leo Martinez and National Artist for Film Eddie Romero.

Romero's 1976 film "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon" was the country's first entry to the Oscars.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), which hands out the Oscars, used to work with Romero in the annual selection. He has since turned over the responsibility to the FAP.

Double time

Romero and Martinez said a screening committee was formed to ensure an RP entry. Last year, the FAP came under fire for failing to field one.

Boots Anson-Roa, a member of the FAP Board of Governors, told INQUIRER Entertainment that the committee had worked double time to beat the Oscar deadline set on Oct. 2.

The committee, chaired by Romero, consisted of FAP members Pablo S. Gomez, Jose N. Carreon, Johnny Delgado, William Mayo and George Estregan Jr.

Romero confirmed that "Maximo" had come up against another indie digital film, MLR Films' "Kubrador."

"Perhaps what spelled the difference for 'Maximo' was that it's a moving, human story, and has won a lot of awards abroad," said Romero.

According to ufo Pictures producer Raymond Lee, "Maximo" has won 12 international awards and joined 35 international film festivals. Locally, it has won 12 trophies, including top plums in the critics' (Urian) and movie press (Star) awards.

Its biggest international awards are from film fests held in Montreal, Singapore and Canary Islands. It received the Best Gay/Lesbian Feature trophy at the Berlin International Film Festival, beating Oscar contenders "Capote" and "Breakfast on Pluto." It also topped the Berlinale Kinderfilmfest.

Sundance sojourn

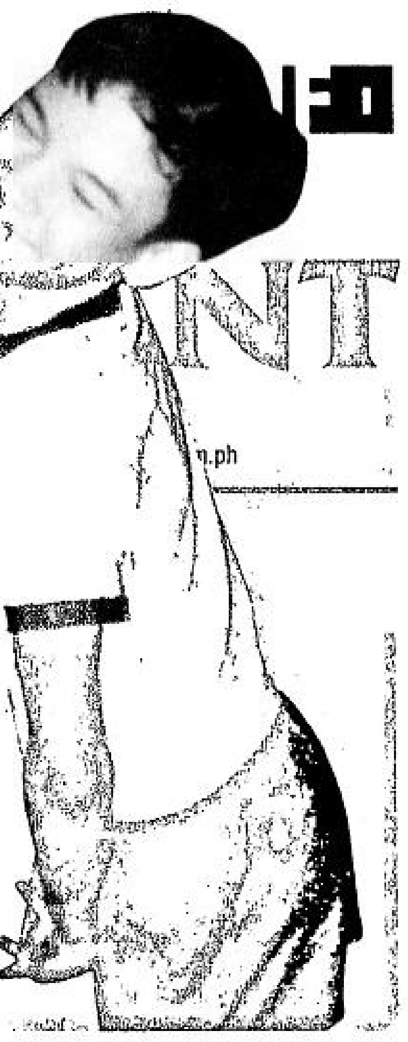
Moreover, "Maximo" earned the distinction of being the first homegrown feature to compete in the World Cinema section of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and was the opening film in the 35th New Directors/New Films program presented by the Museum of Modern Art and Lincoln Center in New York.

("Kubrador" has won awards in the Moscow and Osian Cinefan (India) film fests. It has been invited to 17 film fests—the latest of which is Toronto, where another Filipino film, Centerstage's "Twilight Dancers," is also participating.)

All the entries will be screened in LA. Last year, a record 58 countries competed for only five slots in the Best Foreign Language Film category that was eventually won by "Tsotsi" from South Africa.

The Philippines has never made it to the top five.

Tony Gloria, president of Unitel Pictures, the US distributor of "Maximo," vowed that his company would pull out all the stops to increase the film's chances in the Oscar race.



TICKLED pink: Nathan Lopez as "Maxi"

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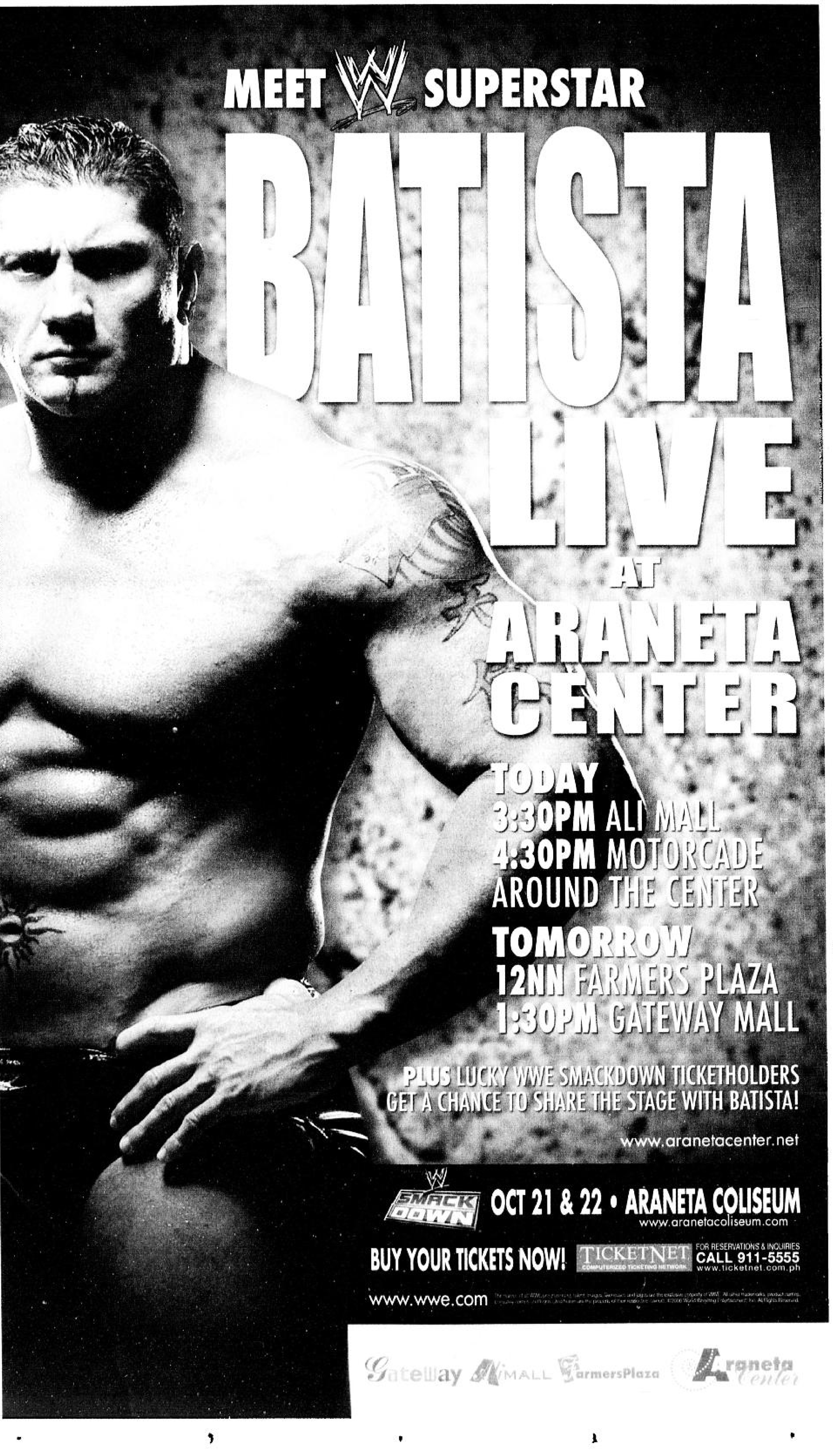

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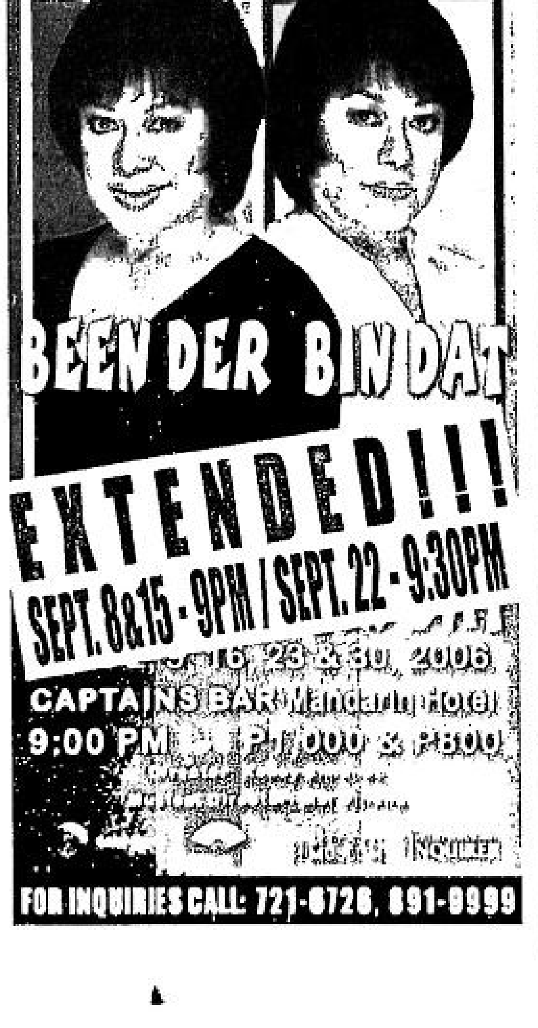

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UP screening set for 'Compound'

WILL FREDO (seated, center) with "Compound" cast, from left: John Arcilla, Joan Palisoc, Liza Diño, Lily Chu, Jake Macapagal and Marq Dollentes.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

By Marinel R. Cruz

WILL FREDO, WRITER AND director of the digital film "Compound," left his lucrative job as computer engineer for software giant Microsoft when he decided to pursue a filmmaking career here.

"I worked [in Seattle, Washington] for close to 10 years," Fredo told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday. "My Microsoft job was very stressful. I worked for almost 60 hours a week. Fortunately, my manager gave me a sabbatical. That's when I studied filmmaking."

A year later, Fredo quit his job and concentrated on filmmaking. He began writing "Compound" in 2003, "at a time when a family member was going through drug abuse and experiencing paranoia." This became the movie's central theme.

"During that time, [actor-politician] Dennis Roldan was also arrested for kidnapping," Fredo recalled. "I was disturbed by all those events when 'Compound' came out."

Leading the cast is award-winning actor John Arcilla as Gil, the drug dependent. His wife, Divina, is theater actress Janet Russ.

Also in the film are Jake Macapagal, Liza Diño, Joan Palisoc, Perry Escaño, Lily Chu and Marq Dollentes.

Fredo said auditions were conducted to complete the cast. "*Ang chismis kasi* here, all the good roles were being given to popular actors. That wasn't true. My goal was not to make a lot of money, but to make a really good film. Luckily, I had really good actors."

Arcilla describes his character as a man trying to hide his weakness. "He's not really the fighter he's pretending to be. He turns to drugs because he cannot accept the fact that he's no longer rich and powerful."

The actor noted that the film's ending is most challenging as it was "physically exhausting and emotionally draining." But he agreed to it because he "fell in love with the story."

"MAKING movies is what I really want to do," says Fredo.

"I FELL in love with the story," John Arcilla, lead star, admits.

What can Fredo say about Arcilla? "To be honest, I didn't know John because I had been living in the States. But I knew I'd found my lead actor the moment I looked into his eyes. When I learned he had won awards, I wasn't surprised. But I think this is his best so far."

Fredo's first project was the short film "The Last Coad," shown in film festivals in Sweden and Berlin, Germany.

"Compound" premiered early this year at the Cleveland International Film Festival and was shown in July at the 2nd Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival in Manila.

The sex-psycho thriller, produced by Hubo, LLC. and FGI Inc., will have public screenings tomorrow, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the Cine Adarna Theater, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

ROUNDUP

Chinese film fest

THE CHINESE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES, IN COOPERATION with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, invites the public to the 2006 Chinese Film Festival at the SM Mall of Asia. The film fest opens today and runs until Sept. 10.

It features the following movies from some of China's top directors and filmmakers: "Taekwondo" (today, 7 p.m. and tomorrow, 4 p.m.); "A Romantic Girl" (today, 9 p.m. and Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.); "When Ruoma Was Seventeen" (tomorrow, 1:30 p.m. and Sept. 10, 9 p.m.); "A Time To Love" (tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m.); and "A Marriage Certificate" (tomorrow, 9 p.m. and Sept. 10, 4 p.m.).

The festival opens at 6:30 tonight with a film delegation led by Tong Gang, director general of the Film Bureau of the China State Administration for Radio Film and Television.

Dance-along movie

Disney Channel presents "High School Musical" the dance-along version tonight at 7:30.

This TV movie tells the story of two high school students—Troy, a popular basketball player and Gabriella, a shy, brainy newcomer—who share a passion for singing. By pursuing their dreams, the two inspire other students to go public with some surprising hidden talents of their own.

Viewers may also log on to www.disneychannel-asia.com for the printable version of the musical's dance moves.

Celebrity portraits

The limited-edition "Behind the Tears?" coffee table book will be launched tomorrow, 6 p.m., at Powerbooks Live at the 2nd Floor of Greenbelt 4, Makati City.

Celebrities like Aubrey Miles, Cheche Lazaro and Jose Javier Reyes will be on hand to sign copies of the book which features portraits taken by top lensman Jun de Leon and chronicles the behind-the-scenes action from the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" advocacy campaign.

The book is a 50-celebrity campaign for cornea donation and eye health of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP) and Visine Refresh.

It contains never-before-seen photographer's cuts of portraits of Filipino personalities like Cesar Montano, Lea Salonga, Sharon Cuneta, Jericho Rosales, Maricel Soriano, Gary Valenciano, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Inno Sotto, Abbygale Arenas-de Leon and Piolo Pascual.

The portraits will also be on display at Greenbelt 3 from Sept. 10 to 16.

'Be Cool'

Star Movies presents "Be Cool," the sequel to the 1995 mobster comedy "Get Shorty" on Sept. 10 at 9 p.m.

In the movie, John Travolta returns as Chili Palmer, who is on a quest to become a different kind of "hit" man—abandoning the movie industry to bring his wise guy skills and negotiation tactics to the music business.

Vince Vaughn stars as the sleazy manager of an up-and-coming singer and Uma Thurman plays music producer.

After a successful pitch to the music producer of an independent record company, Chili becomes a new business partner at the company with a promising young pop star-in-training (Christina Milan) as his protege.

'The New Al-Qaeda'

Discovery Channel presents "The New Al-Qaeda," a three-part series that premieres Sept. 11 at 9 p.m. Replays are on Sept. 12 at 12 midnight, 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Filmed on four continents—American, Europe, Africa and Asia—the series offers access to the information about the fight against Al-Qaeda and the newest terror strategies.

Revealing interviews with key participants on all sides make this series an unprecedented look at the most pressing issue in the world today.

Aussie films

The 4th Australian Film Festival opens with Cate Shortland's "Somersault" on Sept. 14, 7 p.m., at Cinema 1, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.

"Somersault," which premiered at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, won 13 Australian Film Institute Awards in 2004, including Best Film, Best Actor and Best Actress.

Other films to be featured are "Three Dollars," "The Rage in Placid Lake Peaches," "Erskineville Kings," "Two Hands," "Radiance," "Swimming Upstream," "Bootmen," "Green Bush," "Danya," "The Mysterious Explorations of Jasper Morello," "Crooked Mick" and "Dirty Deeds."

The festival, which runs until Sept. 22, also has screenings at the Ayala Center Cebu and the University of the Philippines. For inquiries, call 757-8173.

No new Regine in sight

By Nini Valera

TALENT MANAGER RONNIE HENARES has not found the next Regine Velasquez—not even from among more than 1,000 hopefuls who auditioned on Monday to qualify as contenders in this year's "Pinoy Pop Superstar."

The talent search show, aired over GMA 7, is now on its third season. It is hosted by... Regine Velasquez.

Henares, a guest judge during the last grand audition held at the Premier Theater at the Mall of Asia, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday that finding another Regine could take another life time. The talent manager discovered Regine in 1986 and molded her into an enduring superstar in Pinoy pop music.

"The first time I saw and heard Regine sing, my jaw dropped," Henares recalled. "But during these tryouts, I just saw some potential, not another Regine. We're looking for people who can cut it in the competition. If they can't compete in the show, then there's no sense in putting them there."

At the end of the first day audition, 108 were short-listed for another round. On Tuesday, only 13 made it as contestants to the show.

This year's judges are stricter, as they were during the initial phase of selection, said Danny Tan, a regular judge in the talent search show, and in-house musical director.

"We don't care if you came to auditions with barely enough money for your fare," he said. "If you're not good, then you're out."

Tan dished out some of the harshest critiques of the performances during the auditions.

To Joefel Sidayan, Tan said he was the "perfect example of someone who seemed to have been forced by his mother to sing." Sidayan barely got to the fourth line of his song when Tan thanked him, the signal that pop superstar hopeful had blown his chance.

"It's OK if that's what the judges think about my singing," Sidayan told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino. "I just couldn't get past my nervousness."

Carla Jane Quinquito, another hopeful, almost finished her audition piece, a song popularized by Shirley Bassey. She had the poise, the pitch and the presence. But Tan thought her to be seriously outdated and a Patricia Javier clone.

"You joined the wrong contest," he told Quinquito. "You move like a burlesque dancer. You have a strong foundation [in singing], but you should update your style."

Quinquito merely shrugged. She is only 17, and likely to get another chance another year, or even in another show.

"Danny basically says it all," said Henares of his fellow judge. "He hits it right away."

Tan also hits it hard.

To improve

"I tell them from the start that they should hear what I have to say in order for them to improve," he said. "I hit [the nail on the head]. Otherwise, it would be treating them like children."

In a country where most people are known for their ability to sing and dance, it's difficult to come up with a short list of potential superstars, Henares said. Being a great singer must already be a given, he added.

"When Danny critiques, he's not only helping the people he critiques, but also the people in line," Henares said. "Some talent may have something, but not everything."

What the judges are looking for is the X-factor that would distinguish a superstar from the mediocre.

"Remember, 'Pinoy Pop Superstar' is basically a search for the next pop superstar. Fifty percent of the points goes to superstar quality; the rest to audience appeal, charisma, and marketability," Tan said. "It's not all about singing. If it were all about singing, we can just go back to 'Tawag ng Tanghalan' or 'Bagong Kampeon.'"

A REGINE Velasquez comes but once in a lifetime, says her former manager.

It's about being a superstar, Tan reiterated.

Ironically, most of the people who auditioned to qualify in the show come from the urban poor sector.

"Most of them are *jologs*," Tan said.

"That's okay," said Henares. "When you talk superstar, we have Nora Aunor, and we know where she came from."

Still, the process of discovering the next great singer continues to excite Tan and Henares.

"This is what our life is all about," Henares said. "If we get to pick the next pop superstar, then that's our contribution to the music industry."

The first Pinoy pop superstar was Jonnalyn Viray. Last year, it was Gerald Santos, son of a fisherman from Navotas, who won the crown.

Stars as role models

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ENTERTAINMENT LUMINARIES ARE TAKING A bruising bashing on TV show biz talk shows today. Week after week, stars' and starlets' real, imagined or exaggerated sins of omission and commission are paraded in front of viewers' eyes, for all the world to gawk and smirk at, and to be repelled by.

So much for putting entertainment industry idols on a pedestal—these days, their faces are being rubbed into the mud, the better for fans to hate, vilify and feel superior to.

How wonderful, therefore, to occasionally find stars doing something good and noble, for other people's edification, and not to elicit their contempt.

For instance, erstwhile sexy star **Joyce Jimenez** has just finished college in Australia, and her single-minded sense of focus and purpose should motivate other young people, both in and out of show business, to similarly value their own education and complete their studies, come what may.

It wasn't easy for Joyce to put her show biz career on hold for a couple of years, but she made it happen. And now, she's better prepared to manage her careers in show biz and the clothes business, to reap better rewards in the immediate future.

Also worthy of emulation is Mrs. **Ogie Alcasid, Michelle van Eimeren.** Although she now lives with her daughters in Australia, Michelle continues to serve as an inspiration because she's stood loyally by her husband at this difficult time in his career and personal life.

We also admire Michelle for bothering to *really* learn how to speak Filipino—unlike many *tisoy* Pinoys from overseas, who continue to speak in stilted Taglish, even after years of being in local show biz.

Michelle isn't even *tisay*, she's pure Australian, but she's learned how to speak Filipino like a native.

Her sterling example should motivate or even shame the *balikbayan* talents among us to do what they should have done *before* they launched their show biz careers here—namely, to learn Filipino so well that they can play all sorts of roles in local productions, instead of the lazy *balikbayan* characters that we've had much too much of these past few years.

Similarly, we credit actors like **Ricky Davao** and **Noni Buencamino** for appearing practically free of charge in many digital features, to give new filmmakers a boost. Their generosity is an inspiration to others.

The presence of these two gifted veteran actors adds weight and texture to new directors' productions. Ricky and Noni are happy to do this because they believe in the future of digital films, and want to help assure their full flowering in the years to come.

Coincidentally, they also give new actors a high thespic standard to match, and make the productions' new filmmakers more confident about their ability to do good work in the very demanding field of cinema.

'The Prestige'

HUGH Jackman and **Christian Bale** play rival magicians in "The Prestige," **Christopher Nolan's** ("Batman Begins") latest film. The two lead characters' intense rivalry leads to a lifelong battle for supremacy full of obsession, deceit and jealousy, with deadly consequences.

Full of twists and turns, "The Prestige" is set against the backdrop of turn-of-the-century London. It's exceptional cast includes **Michael Caine, Scarlett Johansson, Andy Serkis** and **David Bowie.**

'Right Next to Me'

AARON'S debut album, "Right Next to Me," was launched on "ASAP Mania" last month. The 17-year-old singer's mother is Filipina and his dad is an Arabian engineer. Aaron studied in the States before his family came back to the Philippines. He's now a contract talent of Universal Records.

'Becoming'

NOW that **Sarah Geronimo** is 18 years old, her transition from teen icon to young adult is marked by the release of her first international album, "Becoming," produced by **Carlo Nasi** and **Christian de Walden.**

"Becoming" will first be released in Manila, then in Japan and the rest of Southeast Asia. There are also plans to release it in the States and some countries in Europe. Its 14 cuts were variously recorded and mixed in Los Angeles, Italy and Manila.

DID YOU KNOW...

'Housewives' clip pulled

LOS ANGELES—A "Desperate Housewives" bedroom scene involving the ABC series' character Bree and a boyfriend was pulled from the YouTube Website after network owner Walt Disney Co. complained.

"This video has been removed at the request of copyright owner Disney because its content was used without permission," was the message that greeted YouTube visitors who tried to call up the clip after Disney's protest.

Rough cut

The scene is a rough cut from an upcoming episode of the hit series, Daily Variety reported Friday. Network and studio executives, who were not identified, told the trade paper the clip was not leaked to foster publicity for the show's third season, starting this month.

In the scene, Bree (series star Marcia Cross), seen in bed with new lover Orson (Kyle MacLachlan), resists his offer to perform a sexual act, saying, "I'm a Republican," then gives in.

YouTube, by some measures, is the leading video-sharing site on the Internet. *AP*

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		3 MONSTER HOUSE 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:10, 4;30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE WICKER MAN 2:20, 4:39, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE	2 MONSTER HOUSE		
		3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 STAY ALIVE	4 ETERNITY
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 ETERNITY	2 MONSTER HOUSE		
		3 YOU, ME & DUPREE	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	

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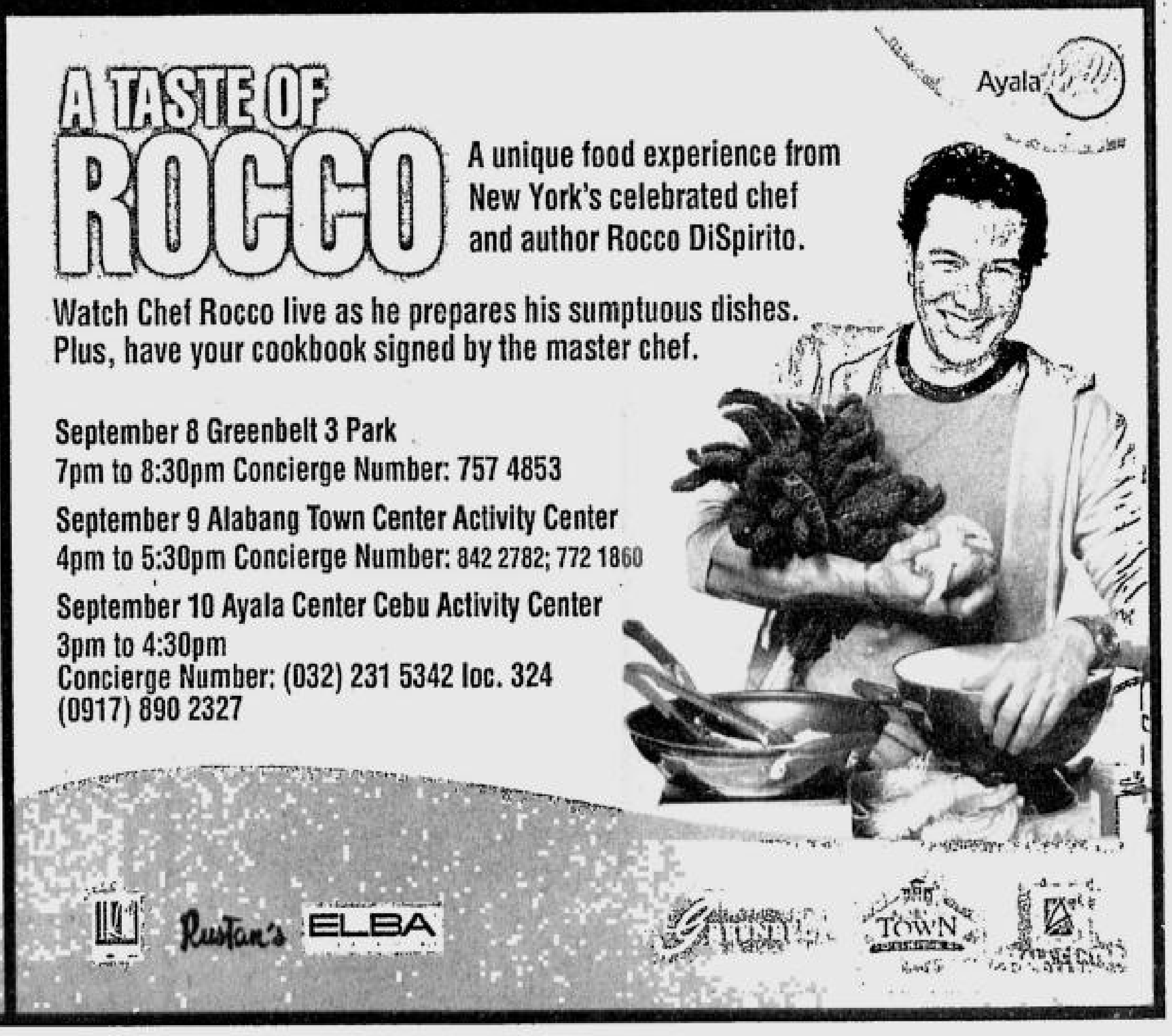
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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE • THX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

5 ETERNITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 RESERVE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ETERNITY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

2 RESERVE

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10

4 MONSTER HOUSE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:05 2:15 4 25 6:40 9:00

7 THE WICKER MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 ETERNITY
11:25 1:15 4:15 6:40 9.05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

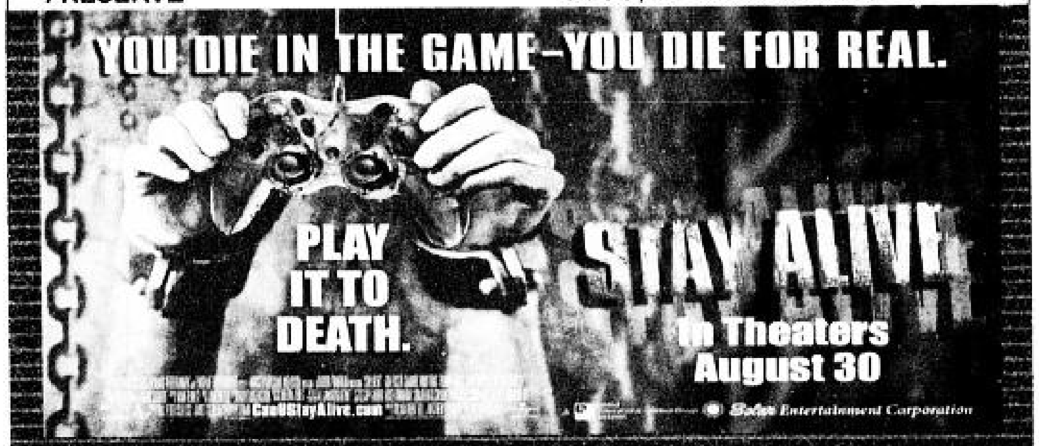
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE



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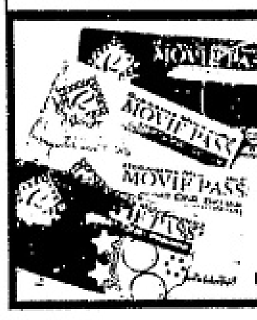
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 MORTUARY



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3 LITTLE MAN
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WICKER MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

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5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10
GP

CINEMA 5 YOU , ME & DUPREE
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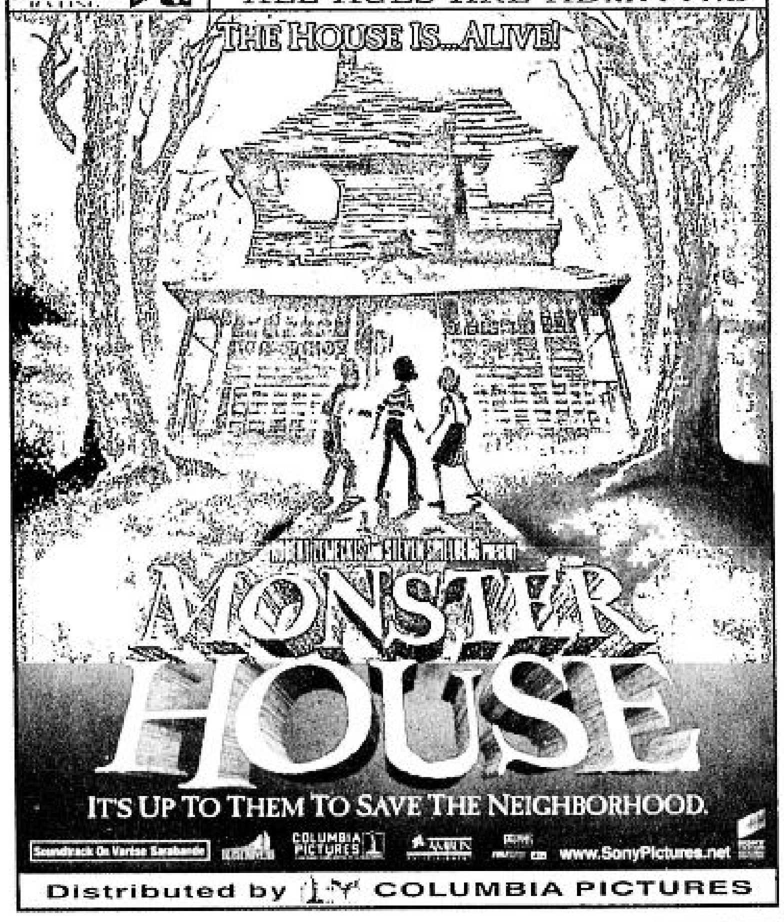
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Woody Allen munches on sandwich while directing a steamy sex scene

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"You didn't mind the bus trip?"

That was how **Woody Allen** greeted our press group when he recently allowed a very rare media visit to his set. After our "Rome" set visit (which we wrote about in our previous column), we flew to London to take up the master filmmaker's unprecedented invitation to talk to him on location.

After a pleasant one-hour bus ride through the countryside, we arrived in a town interestingly named Hoo, where Woody was filming scenes for his untitled movie now called the "Woody Allen Summer Project." On this sunny day (The New Yorker dislikes bright days; he'd rather see grey skies.), we were at the Hoo Marina, a quiet harbor of boats and yachts where we observed him directing his hot actors, **Colin Farrell** and Ewan McGregor.

By previous agreement, the two leads were not going to be interviewed on this set since they wanted to concentrate on their scenes. But Colin walked to our group to say 'hello' and 'welcome.'

The details of this movie's story are being kept top secret. We could only confirm that Colin and Ewan play brothers; the latter's character falls for a girl played by a very lucky actress, **Haley Atwell**, who not only has Woody Allen directing her first movie but gets to act opposite two of Hollywood's best actors; and **Tom Wilkinson** portrays the guys' uncle.

We got to talk to Haley, 24, lovely with silver hoop earrings and a newcomer's enthusiasm, who shared a few more details: "I play Ewan McGregor's love interest. I have a very little story with the brother (Colin's character), only via Ewan's character. I think my relationship with Ewan is very much a power game of knowing the effect that I'm having on him and kind of being a catalyst for his moral decline."

But we persisted and asked if her character does not get romantically involved with Colin's character as well. "You'll have to see. Maybe," she answered us, affecting a mock coy stance but with a naughty twinkle in her eyes.

Haley was more candid about her bed scene with Ewan, as directed by Woody. "It was incredibly unerotic because it was just me wearing a flesh colored top and track suit bottoms underneath the sheet. And Ewan wore like three pairs of pants. He was kind of going, 'Get your elbow out of my face. And you're blocking my light; it's all about you, isn't it?' And then me looking at a corner of the room and seeing Woody, sitting in the corner eating a tomato sandwich, not particularly interested in what was going on at all. So I was thinking, here I am in a sex scene with Ewan McGregor, in my first movie, and both men could not be more disinterested. But it was lovely and very funny."

We were also introduced to Woody's younger sister and longtime producer, **Letty Aronson**. She told us, "We never had any press on the set, except for you guys."

This was Woody's third consecutive film in London after the acclaimed "Match Point," which revived his career, and "Scoop" (both of which starred his new muse, **Scarlett Johansson**, but is Haley the new one?).

Liberating experience

In the comedy "Scoop," Scarlett's American college reporter gets entangled with **Hugh Jackman** at his most charming, debonair self and Woody as a magician. Letty was asked how the break from his brother's usual milieu, New York, has invigorated him.

"When we did the first film here, 'Match Point,' it was a really liberating experience," she revealed. "We came here to live (during the filming). Woody got a house. His wife and kids are here. We were here for 10 or 12 weeks. Because he's not home (in New York), he's not going home for lunch. He hangs out with the group. We had Scarlett, who is very outgoing and friendly, working with us. It was a very friendly atmosphere. We liked being in London and in the restaurants. He loves the weather here. Now this is a day that he doesn't love because it's too sunny. He likes the grey; he likes to shoot in flat light."

Then it was time to walk back to the set. As we sat on the marina's edge thinking that the water below is probably even dirtier than the Pasig River's, we also discovered that Woody does not yell "Action!" or "Cut!" Instead, a crew member screamed "Rolling!" and then the acclaimed director merely said "Okay" to indicate a take's end.

Colin and Ewan rehearsed the scene a few times before the cameras actually rolled. Both men were casually dressed and had spiky hair but Colin looked almost like a pompadour. Colin was in a T-shirt, loose cargo pants and Converse shoes while Ewan wore athletic fit long-sleeved shirt, jeans and sneakers. Incidentally, Letty confirmed that yes, Woody knows that Colin does a good impersonation of him.

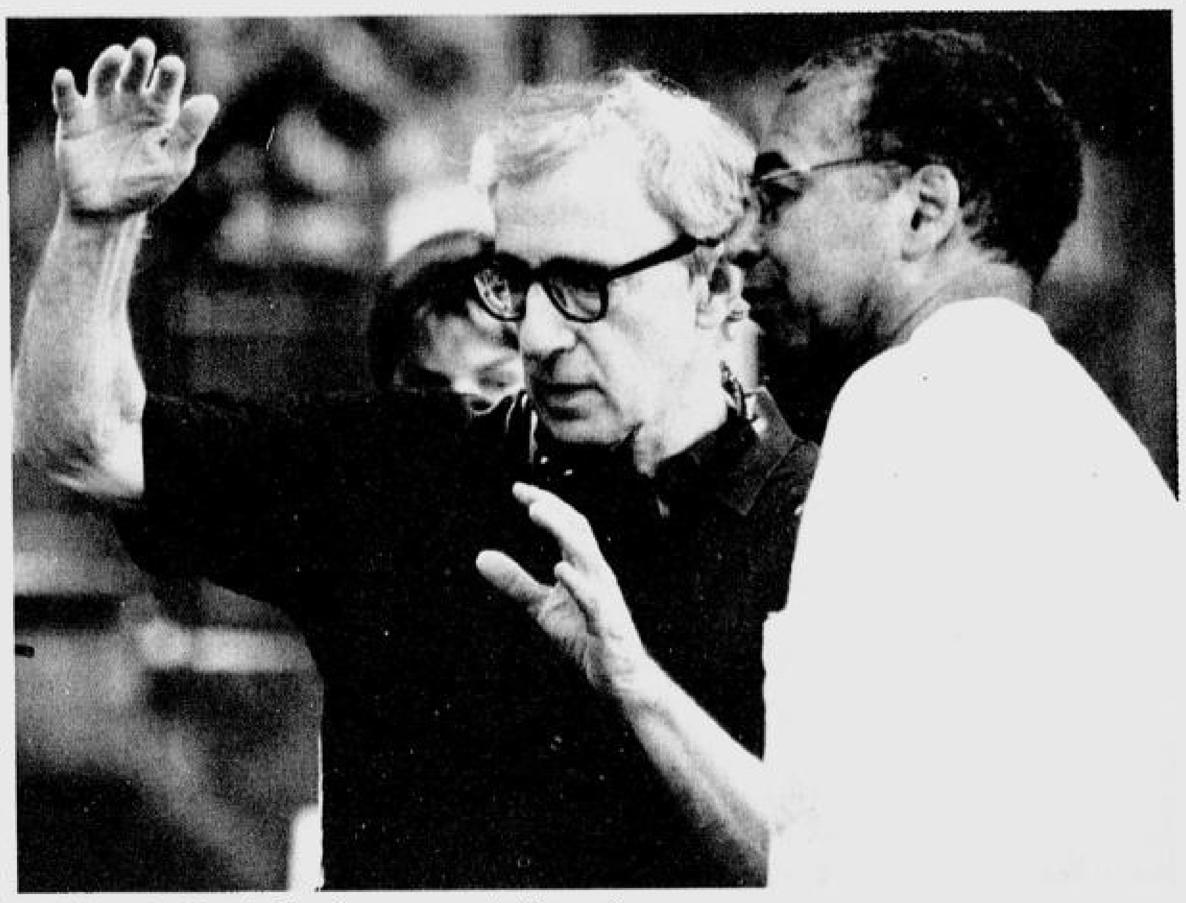
Before the takes, an assistant handed a beat-up bomber leather jacket for Colin to wear. The actor was also given a six-pack Grolsch beer and a boom box to carry as he and Ewan, a backpack slung on his shoulder and clutching a jacket, walked from a gangplank to a boat. After two takes, Woody was satisfied. It was a refreshing change of pace. The day before, we were on the set of a huge, big-budget movie north of London where it took virtually a day and over 50 takes to shoot a single scene (as a result, we memorized all the lines and could mimic the cast, down to their different inflections).

During lulls, Colin and Ewan chatted amiably as the former smoked his usual cigarettes. Sometimes they huddled with their director. In contrast, Woody was rather formally dressed for this dockside setting: neatly pressed blue shirt, chino pants and those well-worn shoes we've seen him wear at the "Match Point" premiere party in LA and in New York press cons.

Woody talked to our group several times during the day, as the crew set up for the next takes. We clustered around him as he sat on a picnic bench. He was asked what he was discussing with Colin and Ewan when they were in a huddle. "Oh, I was just reminding them where we were in the story so they didn't both get on the boat giggling or something," he replied. "That would have been inappropriate for where they were in the script. So they have to look a little more agitated. This was a comparatively easy shot."

Say 'okay'

On not hollering the stock filming terms, the 70-year-old Oscar and Golden Globe winner commented, "This is my 37th film or something. I've never said action in my life. I just say 'okay' when the shot is over."



COMIC genius Woody Allen directs a scene in "Scoop."

WOODY directs and stars with Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman.

TAKING photos was not allowed on the set but residents snapped this one of stars Colin Farrell (left) and Ewan McGregor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.OMELETTE.COM.BR.

When a reporter remarked on the director's economy in takes, Woody confirmed, "Yes, I'm on the short end. If I could get everything in two takes, I never go on to a third. Usually when we go to a third take, it's either the cameraman says, 'Can I have another one? I think I saw a microphone in the background.' Or he'll say, 'The sun flared.' Or the actor will say, 'Can we do one more for me?'"

He added, "But for me, as soon as I get two takes that I like, I'm ready to move on. You only need one that's good for the picture. But if something happens to the negative of the first take, which is very rare, you got to have the second take. When I did 'Sweet and Lowdown' with **Sean Penn**, he did a long scene with **Samantha Morton** where he was brilliant. I told Sean, 'It's silly to do this again. You're never going to do it as well.' So I went with that one take. Now if the negative of that take had been ruined in the lab, I would have been in trouble."

That he does not look at a monitor—a common practice among today's filmmakers—was also brought up. He explained, "I can see the actors doing it live. I might stand behind the monitor if there was no way I could see the actors live. I'm just used to working without it."

Of this untitled movie's story, he could only say, "I can't tell you much except that it's a dramatic story more in the genre of 'Match Point'."

The genius who wrote, directed and acted in such memorable films as "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan" told us in a previous press con that he always writes something about a movie project on a strip of paper and files it in a drawer. A writer inquired what is on the piece of paper for this film.

"The words were, 'Don't forget Uncle Howard,'" he said. "Uncle Howard is a character played in this movie by Tom Wilkinson. I finally got a chance to work with him. Both the boys are very much in love with their Uncle Howard, a wonderful, generous man who tries his best to help them."

What did he know about his Irish and Scottish actors before working with them? "I didn't even know much about them. I saw Ewan singing and dancing in 'Guys and Dolls' in the theater. I also saw him in one movie but I don't remember much of it. I saw Colin in **Terry Malick**'s film but he had (long) hair. He has a different look now."

Leave him alone

Woody's well-known obsession with keeping the script a secret (some actors only get the pages with their lines) works well with his current financiers, Europeans, who leave him alone. "I won't let anybody read the script. I don't let anybody see the picture until it's finished. I don't let the film's investors have a say in the casting or anything. The companies willing to work with me that way are European. They're willing to say, 'We'll give you the money. We won't bother you.'"

He continued, "In the United States, they'll give you the money but they want to look at the script. They want to know who's in it. They like to be your partner in some way. I would rather make films abroad to be completely free than to have to go through that process that American filmmakers go through, where they have to be partners with the people that are putting up the money."

On his practice of never looping or dubbing and always using the dialogue recorded during the actual takes, the comic genius stressed, "I never do any looping. Never."

Why? He explained, "When I first started I was so shocked when I did 'Take the Money and Run' and they said to me, loop the scene because there was the sound of an airplane going past or something. I looped the scene and it was so dead and lifeless. Yet the other way (the original track) was so alive and funny. Everyone needs everything to be so technically perfect. I think that's a mistake. I think that the vitality is much more (important).

"In the movie 'Play It Again, Sam,' producer **Robert Evans**, looped a very big scene with **Tony Roberts**, **Diane Keaton** and me, when we were in a car. He called me up a week later and said, 'I went back to the original, because it's so dead. The three of you never captured the excitement when you were really in the cars racing along the highway.'"

So what is on the slip of paper for his next movie, to be filmed in Barcelona? Woody smiled. He obviously relished giving us teasing bits of information. After a perfectly timed pause, he replied, "Oh, the affair with the woman's friend."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

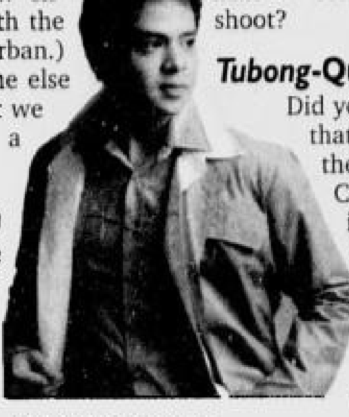
Not exactly a new love team

RUSHES

ANGEL Locsin

A "NEW LOVE TEAM" IS HOW they tried to bill John Lloyd Cruz and Sarah Geronimo over at ABS-CBN, prior to the duo's starring in last night's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode.

It's all over town that John Lloyd has a journalist-girlfriend. (And a new endorsement deal with the luggage brand Urban.) Please find someone else for Sarah. Not that we think she needs a love team.



JOHN Lloyd Cruz

Angel *na naman*

Speaking of love teams and endorsements, Angel Locsin is Piolo Pascual's female counterpart as endorser of San Mig Coffee. What, another one? She says San Mig Coffee Sugar-Free fits her lifestyle perfectly. "Instant—very easy to prepare. Hassle-free, especially for people like me, who are always ..."

...on the way to the next commercial shoot?

Tubong-Quezon

Did you know that "hair stylist to the stars" James Cooper grew up in Lucena, Quezon before he went to Hollywood, where his career took off? Well, he was home recently to receive an award from his native city, Most Distinguished Son in the field of ... not hair care or make up ... community service!

Bands together

The rock bands scene is alive and kicking. Seems every imaginable occasion has become reason for the most popular groups to play together. Two recent events combined young fashion and rock music quite well, indeed: the Levi's 501 "Stay True" concert at SM Mall of Asia, and Penshoppe's "Denim Lab" line launch at the Araneta Coliseum. That's not to say only *maong* goes with rock, okay?

VIVIEN Leigh

Most beautiful

LONDON—British actress Vivien Leigh, the star of "Gone with the Wind," topped a poll published Tuesday for the most beautiful British woman of all time.

Leigh, who died in 1967, was ahead of Elizabeth Taylor — born to American parents in Britain — in second place, and Catherine Zeta-Jones in third. *AFP*

Suri's debut

VANITY FAIR

TOM, Katie and Suri

LOS ANGELES—Actor Tom Cruise's infant daughter made her debut on Tuesday as freshman CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric broke the story of Vanity Fair magazine landing the much-anticipated first photos of baby Suri.

The photographs of the dark-haired baby born to Cruise and actress Katie Holmes on April 18 were televised about midway through the newscast. *Reuters*

Streetdance Battle at the Big Dome

AFTER ITS SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH LAST year, the Skechers Streetdance Battle comes back to take the country's biggest, toughest, and hottest street dance competition for the youth to a higher level.

With more participating schools, wider coverage, and a bigger venue for the finals—the Araneta Coliseum—Skechers Streetdance Battle 2 continues to "pay tribute to the immense talent of the Filipino youth in street-dancing," Skechers management said in a statement.

This year's edition gathers 80 teams from top high schools and colleges nationwide. Winners will receive P100,000 in cash.

A launch party is set Sept. 23 at the SM Mall of Asia. There are six elimination rounds: Sept. 30 at SM San Lazaro; Oct. 7, SM North Edsa; Oct. 14, SM South Mall; Oct. 21, SM Fairview; Oct. 22, SM Manila; Oct. 28, SM Centerpoint.

Final showdown of the top 20 teams at the Big Dome will be held Dec. 2.

VON TRAPP Children

SHOW TIME

Von Trapp concert

The Von Trapp Children, descendants of the famous singing family whose story was immortalized in the hit Broadway musical and 1965 movie classic, "The Sound of Music," will perform on Oct. 6, 8 p.m. at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center and on Oct. 7, 7 p.m. at the Premiere Theater of SM Mall of Asia.

Billed the "The Von Trapp Children Concert," the event is being mounted by Solar Entertainment. It will showcase traditional and contemporary songs by Sofira, 18; Melanie, 16; Amanda, 15, and Justin, 12— great-grandchildren of Captain Georg Ritter von Trapp of Austria.

Tickets for the PICC show are priced at P500, P1,00, P1,500 and P2,000. For SM Mall of Asia, P1,500 and P2,000. Call 911-5555 or 891-9999.

RUFA Mae Quinto

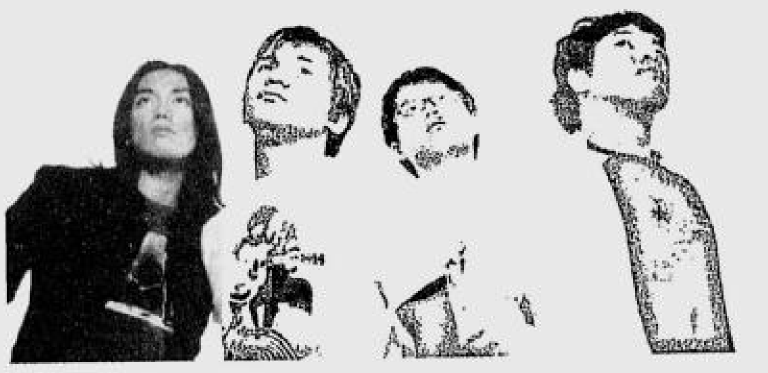
ERIK Santos

Erik & Rufa Mae

It started with a kiss. Who would have thought that it would be the beginning of a love story?

And now, a concert: Erik Santos and Rufa Mae Quinto, rumored sweethearts, star in "When Erik Met Rufa" at the Music Museum Sept. 15 and 16.

Special guests are Ai Ai de las Alas, and Regine Velasquez on Sept. 15; Wally and Jose and Ogie Alcasid on Sept. 16. Also featured are the Hotlegs. Bong Quintana directs, with Louie Ocampo as musical director. Tickets at P2000, P1,500, P1,000 and P600 are available at the Music Museum. Or call Ticketworld, 891-9999.


SPONGECOLA

Spongecola at Metrowalk

Universal Records launches the new Spongecola album "Transit" at the Metrowalk (Ortigas, Pasig City) open quadrangle tonight at 8 with a special show by the group.

Spongecola performs "Bitiw," the new album's carrier single "Tuliro," "Movie," "The Wandering," "Do You Know the Feeling" and "Pasubali."

Spongecola is Chris Cantada, Gosh Dilay, Yael Yuzon and Armo

Imago album tour

The Imago "Blush" album mall tour starts with a free show at SM-San Lazaro tomorrow at 5 p.m.

***

Today

Hush and Highlights at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

RJ 'n Friends with Moonstrucks at **RJTV Bar.** Call 899-1658

The Jerks at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Tomorrow

Backroom Musical Caravan goes to Nasugbu, Batangas with **Erik Santos, Kim Flores, Frenchie Dy, K Brosas** and **The Boxers** and **Keanna Reeves.**

Jackie Rice at **Metropolis Star**; 4 p.m.

Livewire and **Urbanation** at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

Spy at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Flintstones and the Gang at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Kearney St. at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 11

Fatbabes and **Vice Ganda** at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

Parokya ni Edgar at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Silk and Steel at **Merk's Greenbelt 3**

Tropical Depression at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 12

Jeremiah and **Mocha** at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

Noel Cabangon at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's Greenbelt 3**

Brass Munkeys at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 13

The Members and **Zyncxation** at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

Spirit of '67 at **Dish ABS-CBN Loop**

RJ at **Discovery Suites**; 9 p.m. Call 899-3108

Urbandub at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and **Judith Banal** at **Merk's Greenbelt 3**

Side A at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 14

The Greatest and The Latest Tribute Concert: Rock 'n' Roll and Bossa Nova with **RJ** and **Sitti** at the **Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental.** Call 899-1658.

Retrospect at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

Stella Ruiz and H2O at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Orange and Lemons at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 15

Hush and Highlights at **Mugen Bar.** Call 637-4089.

RJ 'n Friends with Moonstrucks at **RJTV Bar.** Call 899-1658

The Jerks at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

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CINEMA 2
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7 WICKER MAN
8 ETERNITY
9 SARONG BANGGI
10 LITTLE MAN
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

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2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 WICKER MAN
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 LITTLE MAN
12 SNAKEs ON A PLANE

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3 CLICK
4 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 ETERNITY
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 STAY ALIVE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

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2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
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6 LITTLE MAN
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8 SARONG BANGGI
9 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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7 LITTLE MAN
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SARONG BANGGI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
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2 ETERNITY
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 STAY ALIVE
12 ETERNITY

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3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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2 MONSTER HOUSE
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4 ETERNITY

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4 SARONG BANGGI
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6 YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MONTERS HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI
6 ETERNITY

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2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 ETERNITY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
6 ETERNITY
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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5 ETERNITY
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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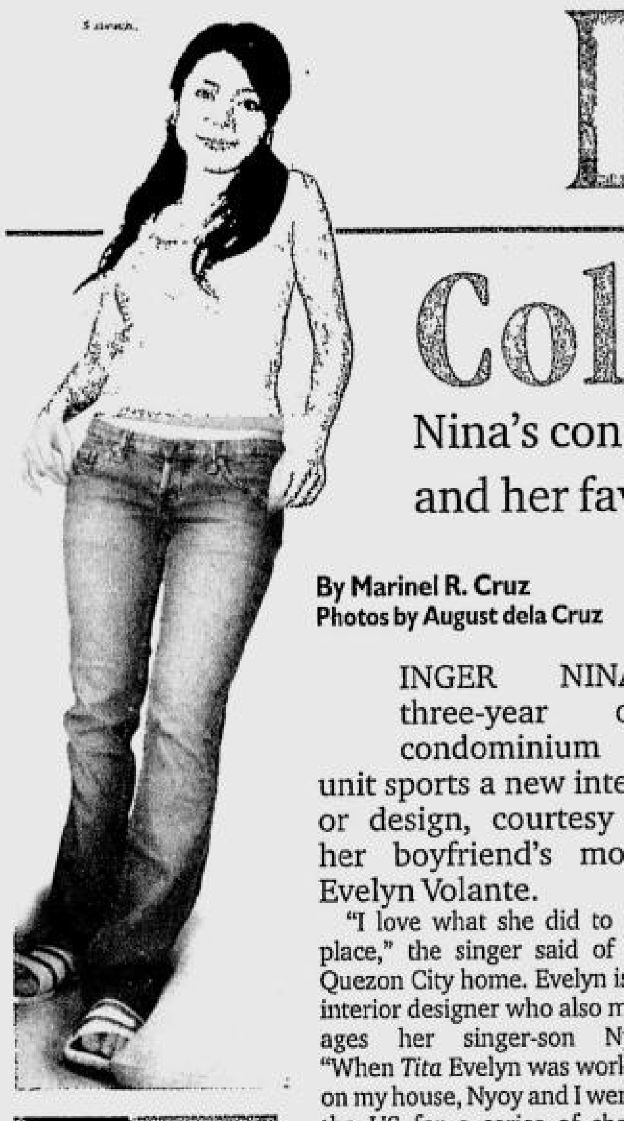
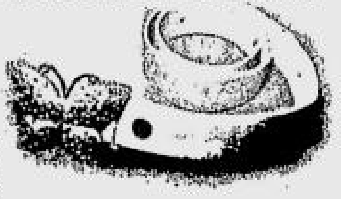


Color her pink

Nina's condo is a cozy nest filled with souvenirs and her favorite things



Out of the Closet

"BUTTERFLIES are very feminine," says the collector.

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by August dela Cruz

INGER NINA'S three-year old condominium unit sports a new interior design, courtesy of her boyfriend's mom, Evelyn Volante.

"I love what she did to this place," the singer said of her Quezon City home. Evelyn is an interior designer who also manages her singer-son Nyoy. "When *Tita* Evelyn was working on my house, Nyoy and I were in the US for a series of shows. When I got back and saw it, I was so happy, I couldn't stop jumping up and down!"

During Living Star's visit, Nina showed us new shelves and closets adorning her once-bare living room wall. Then she ushered us into the kitchen to show off cupboards now painted in red, which "Nyoy's mom said enhances the appetite."

PERFUME

I get them a lot as gifts, so *para na akong* collector of perfumes.

My current favorite is Body Shop's Vanilla. When I use it, I smell fresh all day, till night time. If you plan on buying perfume, you should test it first. Make sure the fragrance lingers. Also, test for allergies.

ACCESSORIES

I got this belt from a trip abroad last year. Pink is my favorite color. Plus, I also love the butterfly buckle.

Most of the necklaces, earrings and bracelets that I love are gifts from fans. My favorite is this pair of silver hoops. I've not seen anything like it.

BAGS

This (a pink-and-white purse) is memorable to me—a gift from my mom. She sewed on the butterfly designs herself.

I like this (green-and-silver) shoulder bag because of its unique design. It has little pockets studded with rhinestones. It's another gift from a fan.

For work, I prefer big bags because I want my things in one carry-all.

SHOES

This pair of wedge heels has an interesting story. I bought it in Japan. When I first asked for my size, the saleslady said there was none available except yellow ones. Since I wanted mine in pink, I let it go. Suddenly, another saleslady said there was one pair left in the stockroom—in my size. *Ang swerte ko!*

My silver high-heeled pair—with my favorite butterfly clasps—are perfect for all my formal clothes. I just bought it here.

When I feel like wearing flats, I use my white flip-flops—with shorts or skirts.

BOOKS

I love Paulo Coelho. The latest on my shelf is "The Devil and Miss Prym." But the first Coelho I got was "Eleven Minutes," not the more popular one, "The Alchemist." It's about the struggles of a prostitute.

I became a John Irving fan after watching "The World According to Garp," with Robin Williams in the lead role. But I didn't buy that book immediately. I first read Irving's "Widow for One Year." I read Nicholas Sparks' "The Notebook" long before I watched the movie version. I also like his "Wedding in a Bottle."

VIDEO GAMES

I like interactive TV game shows. I have "Name That Tune," "The Price is Right," "Battle of the Sexes," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigators" and "Wheel of Fortune," to name a few. I bought them abroad.

GIFTS FROM NYOY

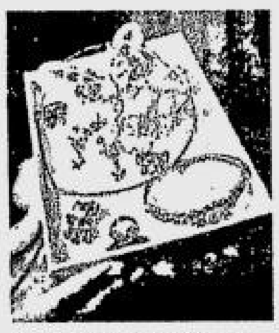
The latest is this metal key chain. We chanced upon it while strolling in a Makati mall. I just pointed to it and said it looked nice. Next thing I know, he's bought it, and it's in my bag.

My favorite among his gifts is this SpongeBob SquarePants musical toy. SpongeBob is playing a blue guitar, which is Nyoy's trademark.

A FAN of "CSI" and "Will and Grace"

NINA'S fave pink wedges from Japan.

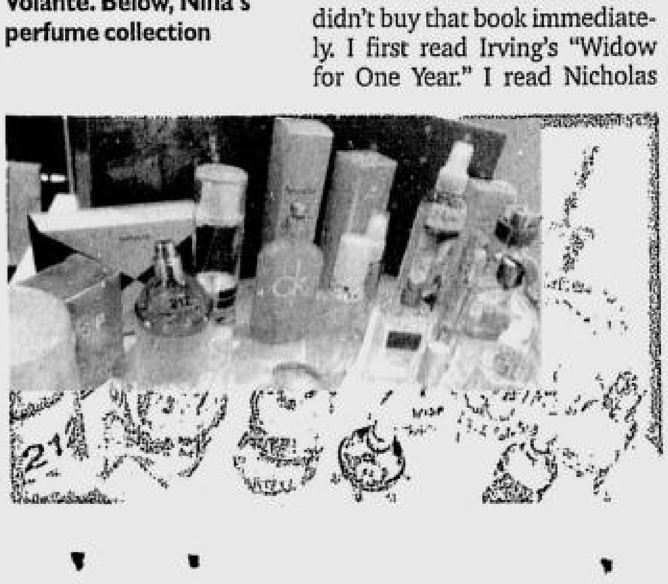
SILVER high-heeled pair with butterfly clasp.



ACCESSORIES given by her fans are studded with ... butterfly designs, of course.

A VALUED gift from mom

MUSICAL toy from boyfriend, Nyoy Volante. Below, Nina's perfume collection



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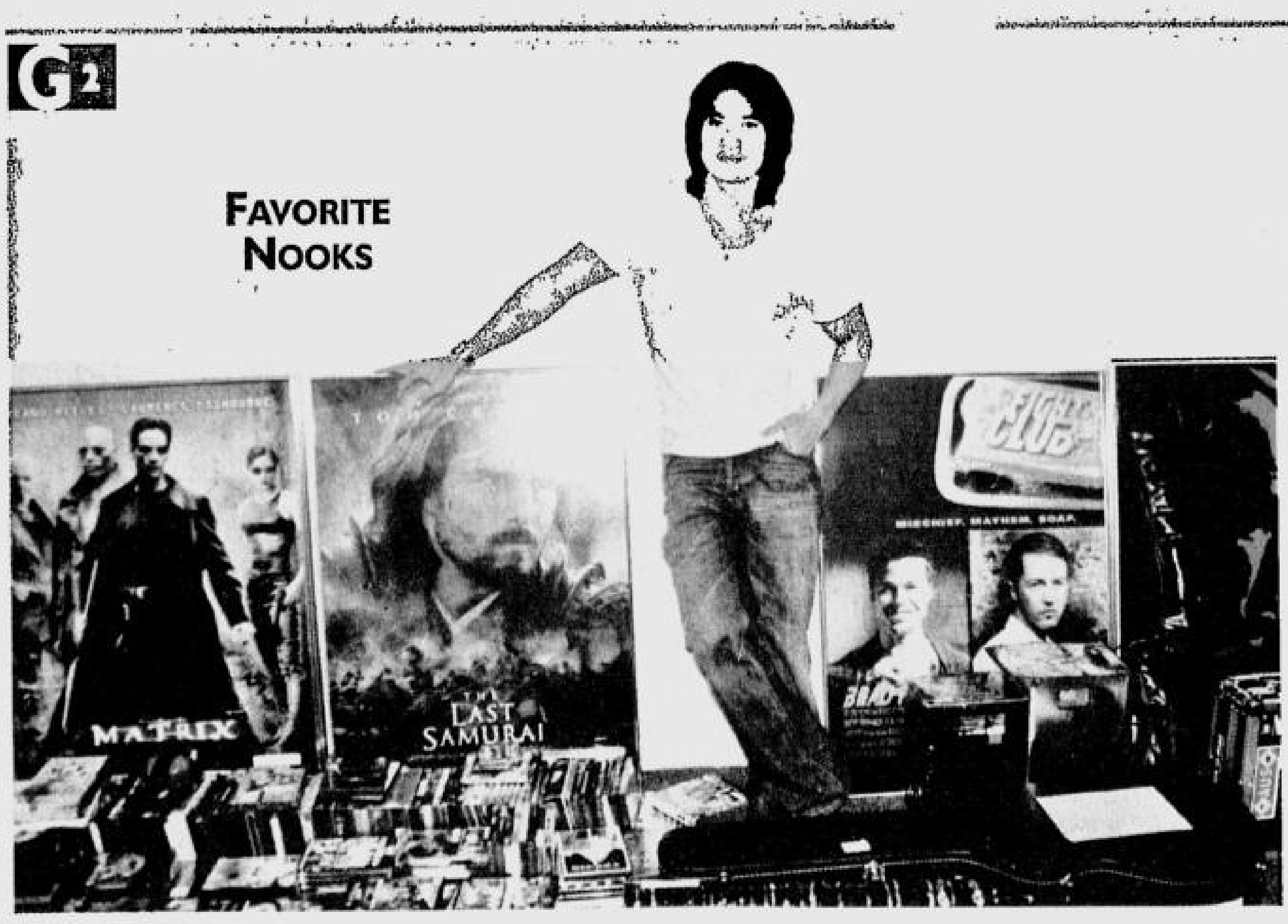
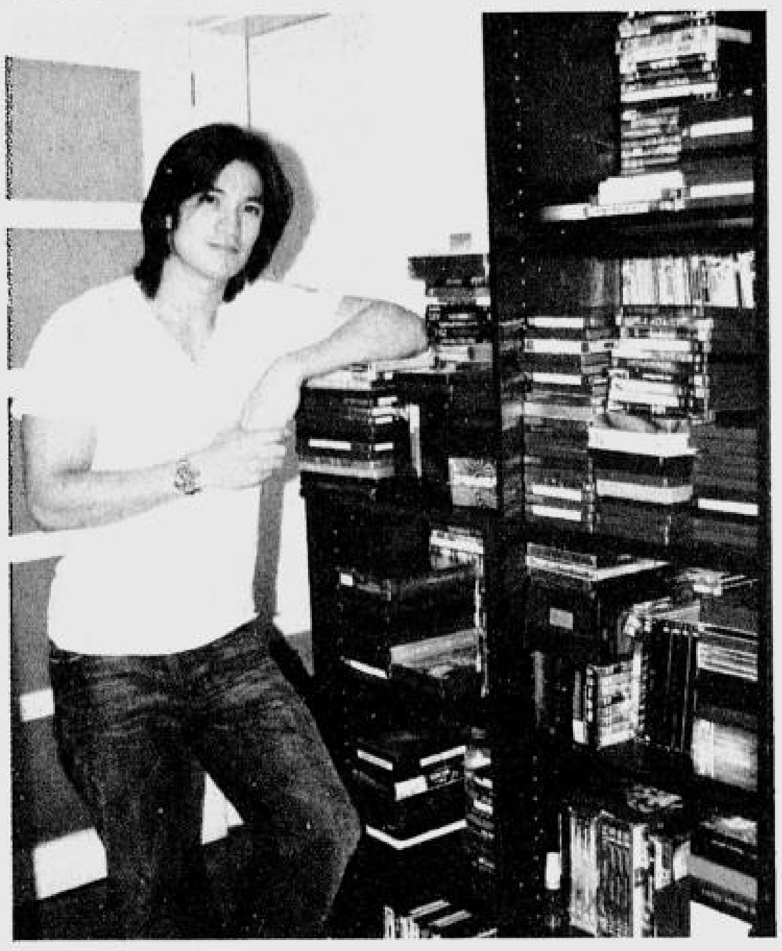
FAVORITE NOOKS





DIETHER OCAMPO

I have around 400 DVDs in my video library. All original, of course. They're also catalogued according to the movies' lead stars. All the Johnny Depp, Sean Penn and Robert De Niro movies are lumped together. I also have (Spanish filmmaker) Pedro Almodóvar's films, like "Live Flesh." If you're going to borrow from my DVD collection, you need to sign for it in a logbook and return it afterwards! Also in the video room are movie posters of my favorite movies, like "Fight Club," "The Matrix" and "The Last Samurai."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

BOOKS

GELLI DE BELEN

It's hard for me to choose one favorite book but I like Mitch Albom's "The Five People You Meet in Heaven." It says that things you do in your life affect other people, either positively or negatively. The book has taught me to be conscious of other people's feelings.

I also like "The Da Vinci Code" for its huge impact on my life. The subject is sensational. The author, Dan Brown, has another book, "Angels and Demons," but the latter is not as intriguing.

In "The Wedding," continuation of Nicholas Sparks' "The Notebook," I can relate to the story of a couple trying to prevent their marriage from getting too monotonous.

Marinel R. Cruz

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Owen Wilson Kate Hudson Matt Dillon Michael Douglas
PG-13

You, Me and Dupree
Two's company. Dupree's a crowd.
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Meryl STREEP Anne HATHAWAY
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
A Devilish Good Time!

FOX 2000 PICTURES presents a WENDY FINERMAN production MERYL STREEP ANNE HATHAWAY THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA STANLEY TUCCI [illegible]

DID YOU KNOW...

Oprah's youth Club

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI—Talk show host Oprah Winfrey plans to be in her birthplace of Kosciusko, Mississippi, to dedicate a state-of-the-art Boys & Girls Club she helped sponsor.

The $5-M facility has a gym, computer lab and garden.

"We know how valuable her time is and happy that she is giving us a little of it to come down here," said Jimmy Cockroft, mayor of the city of 7,334.

Paul Powers, vice president of special projects for The Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club of Kosciusko and Attala County, Mississippi, said the facility will be used mainly for after-school activities for boys and girls 5-18 years old.

Construction began in October 2004 on the 2,970-square meter facility funded by The Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

The kitchen area was designed by Winfrey's personal chef, Art Smith, who also will be on hand for the dedication Monday. *AP*

Have you seen a *REALLY* good m
Watch out for these films from Unico Entertainment and

OPENS SEPTEMBER 13
bonne pioche
and
Unico Entertainment
present
A heartwarming story of love, survival and family in the coldest place on earth.

A FILM DIRECTED BY LUC JACQUET
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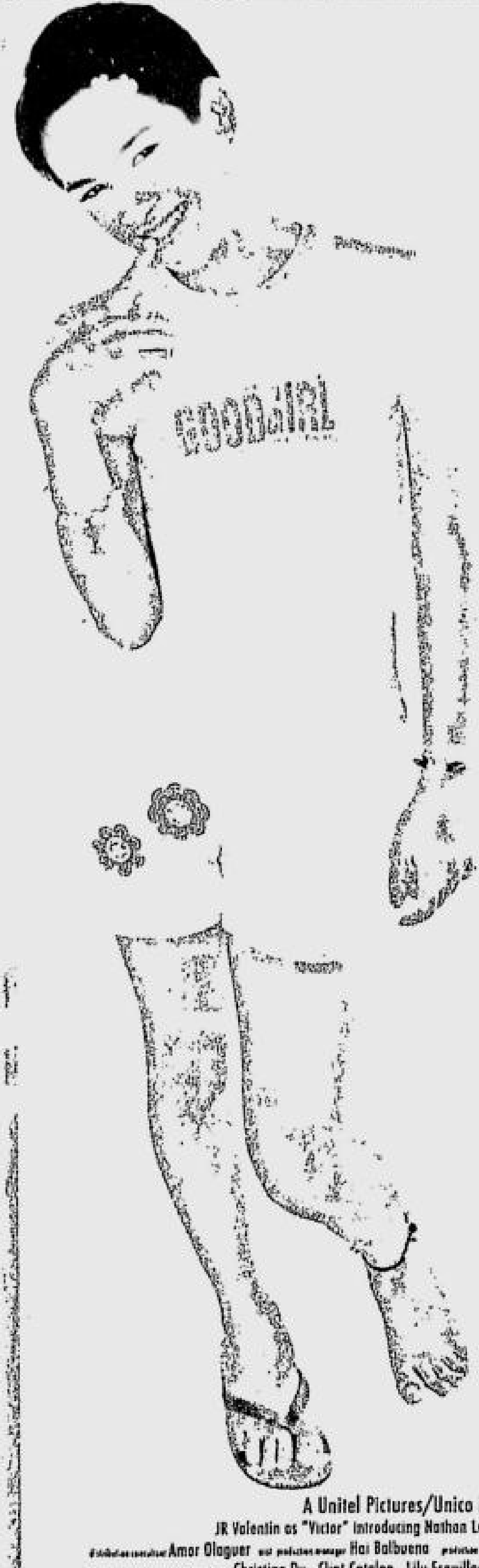
NARRATED BY SHARON CUNETA
ORIGINAL STORY NARRATED BY ROMANE BOHRINGER CHARLES BERLING JULES SITRUK ORIGINAL MUSIC EMILIE SIMON ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY LUC JACQUET ADAPTATION MICHEL FESSLER LUC JACQUET
CINEMATOGRAPHY LAURENT CHALET JEROME MAISON JEAN CHRISTOPHE BARRET EDITOR SABINE EMILIANI SOUND DESIGNER LAURENT QUAGLIO GERARD LAMPS
PRODUCED BY YVES DARONDEAU CHRISTOPHE LIOUD EMMANUEL PRIOU A BONNE PIOCHE PRODUCTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL FILM PRODUCTION (FRANCE)
AND CANAL+ A COPRODUCTION WITH APC IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRENCH POLAR INSTITUTE (IPEV)
TRANSLATED INTO FILIPINO BY CHRIS MARTINEZ AND EUGENE EVASCO
bonne pioche CINECAM
Oscar is trademark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

OPENS SE
Offi



A Unitel Pictures/Unico Entertainmer
JR Valentin as "Victor" introducing Nathan Lopez as "Maxi"
Amor Olaguer Hai Balbuena Marinel
Christina Dy Clint Catalan Lily Esquillon Luis Qu
Emmanuel dela Cruz Ned Trespeces Jade Castro
A Cinemalaya

JAMIE LEE CURTIS
US actress Jamie Lee Curtis, right, at a book signing event for her book, "Is There Really A Human Race?" on Tuesday in New York City. BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

BOOKS

Is There Really a Human Race

KEANU Reeves and Sandra Bullock in Tokyo for the premiere of "The Lake House." AFP PHOTO

FRENCH actress Isild Le Besco at the oening of the 63rd Venice Film Festival. AFP

LINDSAY Lohan arrives for the screening of her movie "Bobby" in Venice. AFP

RACHEL Weisz, star of "The Fountain," also in Venice. AP

PATRICK Dempsey and Ellen Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy" at DVD launch in LA. REUTERS

RUSSIAN actress Svetlana Metkina arrives for the screening of her movie "Bobby" in Venice's Lido. AFP

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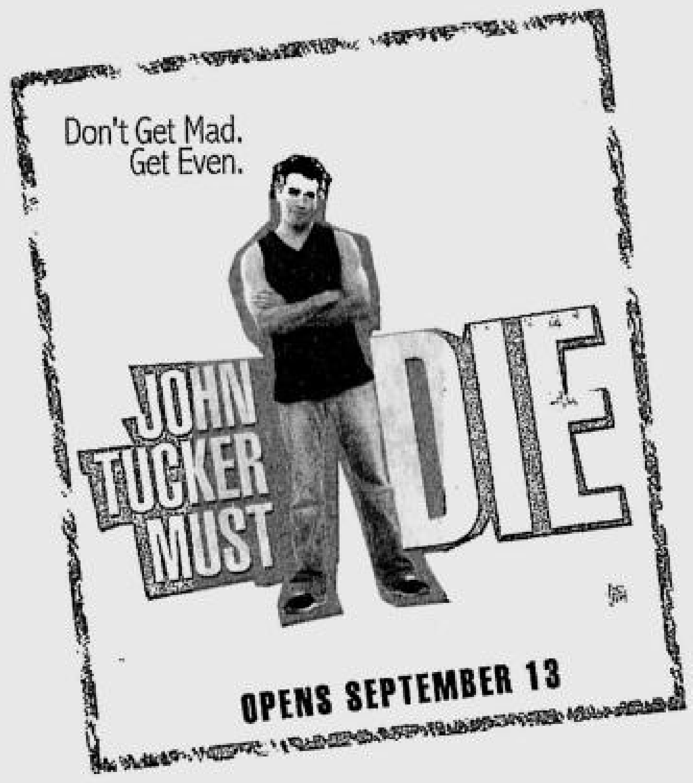
Don't Get Mad.
Get Even.
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 13

ovie lately?
Unitel Pictures

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WINNER
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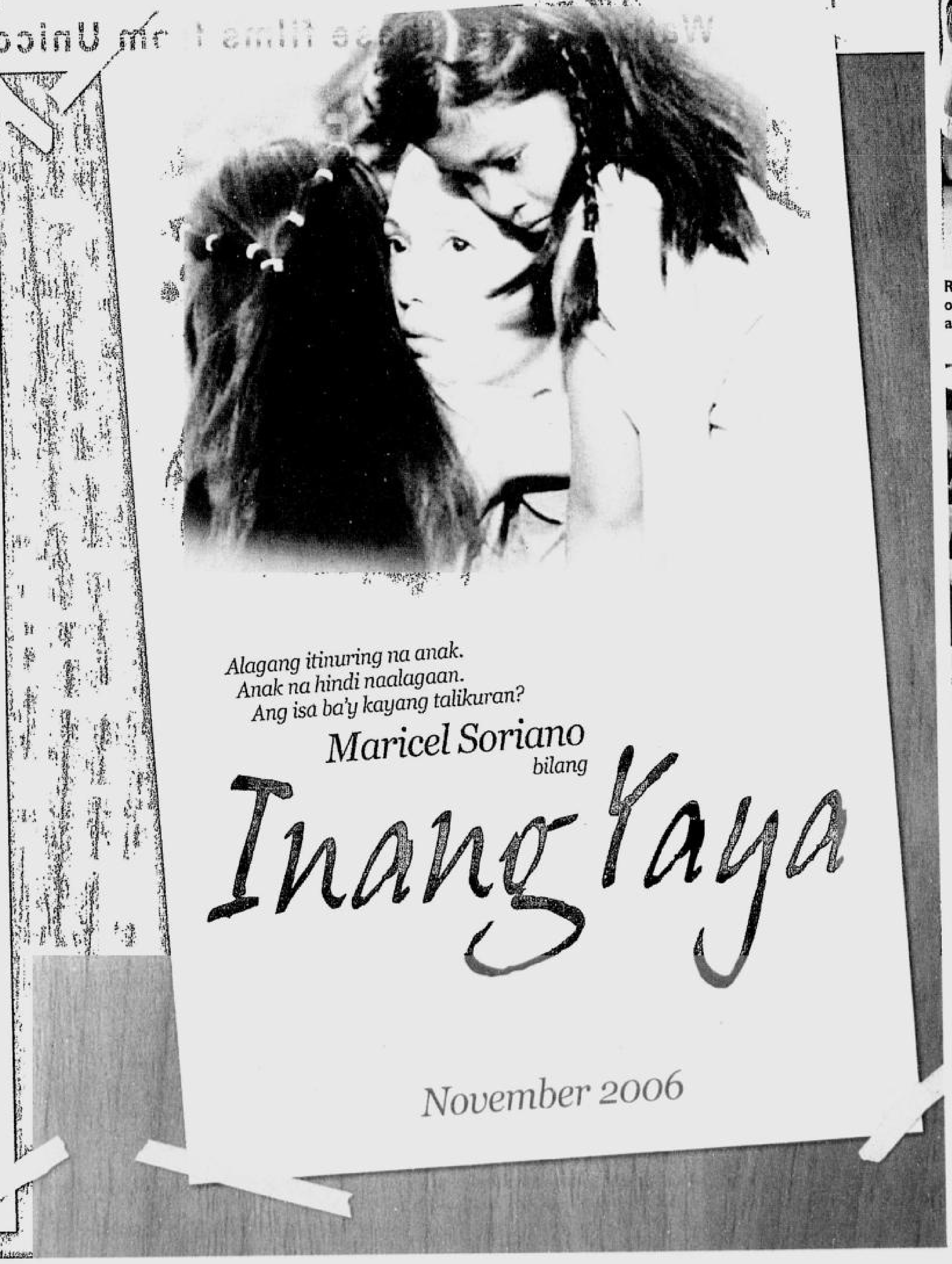
Jury Prize, Rotterdam International Film Festival
Best Picture, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival
Audience Award, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival
Best Actor (Nathan Lopez), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival
Best Debut Film, Montreal World Film Festival

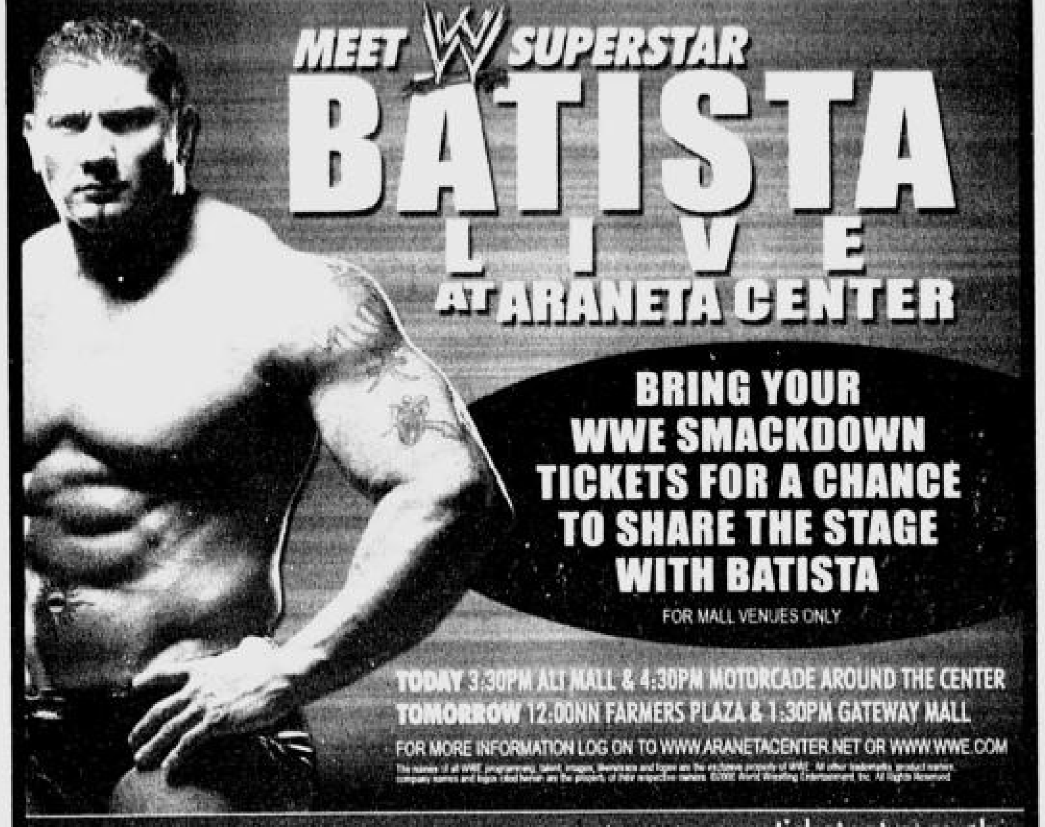
Maxi is back!
is maganda in re-mastered 35mm film,
is mahaba ang hair sa dami ng awards.

Ang Pagdadalaga ni MAXIMO OLIVEROS
E BLOSSOMING OF MAXIMO OLIVEROS)

HE LITTLE BOY IS NOW A LADY.

Release · A ufo Pictures Production
Soliman Cruz Neil Ryan Sese Ping Medina Bodjie Pascua
santa cinematography Nap Jamir editing Clang Sison Kanakan Balintagos JD Domingo
ino sound Tad Ermitanio original music Pepe Smith additional music Owel Alvero
by Raymond Lee written by Michiko Yamamoto directed by Auraeus Solito
Presentation
.tripod.com


Alagang itinuring na anak.
Anak na hindi naalagaan.
Ang isa ba'y kayang talikuran?
Maricel Soriano
bilang
Inang Yaya
November 2006



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Movie	Showtimes
THE WICKER MAN	1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45
MONSTER HOUSE	1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
ETERNITY	12:35 / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20 / 9:35
YOU, ME & DUPREE	12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00
LITTLE MAN	3:10 / 7:30
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND	1:00 / 5:20 / 9:40
YOU ARE THE ONE	12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
SNAKES ON A PLANE	2:10 / 4:25 / 6:40 / 9:00
YOU, ME & DUPREE	2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA

ALI MALL 5

Cinema	Movie	Showtimes
1	YOU ARE THE ONE	12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
2	ETERNITY	12:05 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
3	THE WICKER MAN	12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4	MONSTER HOUSE	12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
5	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45

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Come as you are

SHOW STOPPER

CASUAL, FORMAL, sexy or sporty—Tyron Perez has the clothes to help him look the part. He knows, of course, that acting is not just about outfitting.

To prepare for the role of a young macho dancer in Mel Chionglo's "Twilight Dancers," Tyron embarked on a tour of Metro Manila gay bars and took up a crash course on sexy dancing.

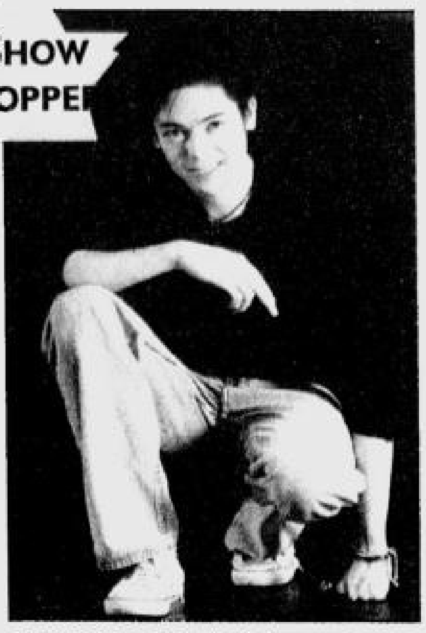
"I learned a lot from that experience," Tyron told Living Stars during this pictorial at the INQUIRER offices. "I understood why they end up in that line of work."

He said his character in the movie—Dwight, a young macho dancer—was like him in many ways. "We're both 19 years old. We both like blue jeans, t-shirts and rubber shoes, jackets and flip-flops."

"Twilight Dancers," written by Ricky Lee and produced by Centerstage Productions, will be screened in the Contemporary World Cinema section of the ongoing Toronto International Film Festival. It will be shown in local theaters starting Sept. 20.

Marinel R. Cruz
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

FORMAL FUNCTION. "I wear this only during awards ceremonies and other formal functions, like when I have to escort someone to a party. This dark colored *barong* Tagalog is made from *jusi*.



CASUAL LOOK. "Dwight would wear this black long-sleeved polo shirt. It looks *presko* because the fabric is light, but it actually makes me sweat."

SEXY SCENE. "I wore this—unbuttoned sleeveless jacket, denim jeans—in one scene. For me this is sexy. Sexiness is not always about showing skin.

SPORTY FORM. "An actor has to look his best at all times. I hit the gym—in my sweatshirt and dry-fit jogging pants—when I'm not at work."

TAIL TALES

WITH RUDY'S "girl" Koochay, above, and "lookalike" Koochi, top right

LORNA TOLENTINO

PEOPLE SAY YOU END UP LOOKING like your pet dog. A classic example is me and my pet Koochi, a seven-year-old Chihuahua. He acts as if he's the king of our house. The queen of the house is Koochay, a six-year-old Mini-Pinscher. She's [my husband] Rudy Fernandez's girlfriend! We even celebrate their birthdays: Feb. 18 for Koochi and Oct. 10 for Koochay. Taking care of them can be exhausting. They have regular vet appointments and we go shopping for food, toiletries, toys and accessories for them. I love dressing them up in little costumes. Koochay is sick right now. She's an exercise buff *pa naman*—always jumping and running around, like a kangaroo. Now, she's the opposite. *Wawa talaga.* (I really pity her.)

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Welcome back, CERELAC!

That's right, the baby cereal you love is back!
A complete solid food for babies six months onwards, every serving of CERELAC helps fulfill your baby's daily requirements of important nutrients like calories, protein and iron.

CALORIES
Your baby needs lots of energy for the day, to help her grow up, up, up! That's why CERELAC has an average of 206 calories in every serving --- that's 29%* of your baby's energy needs everyday!

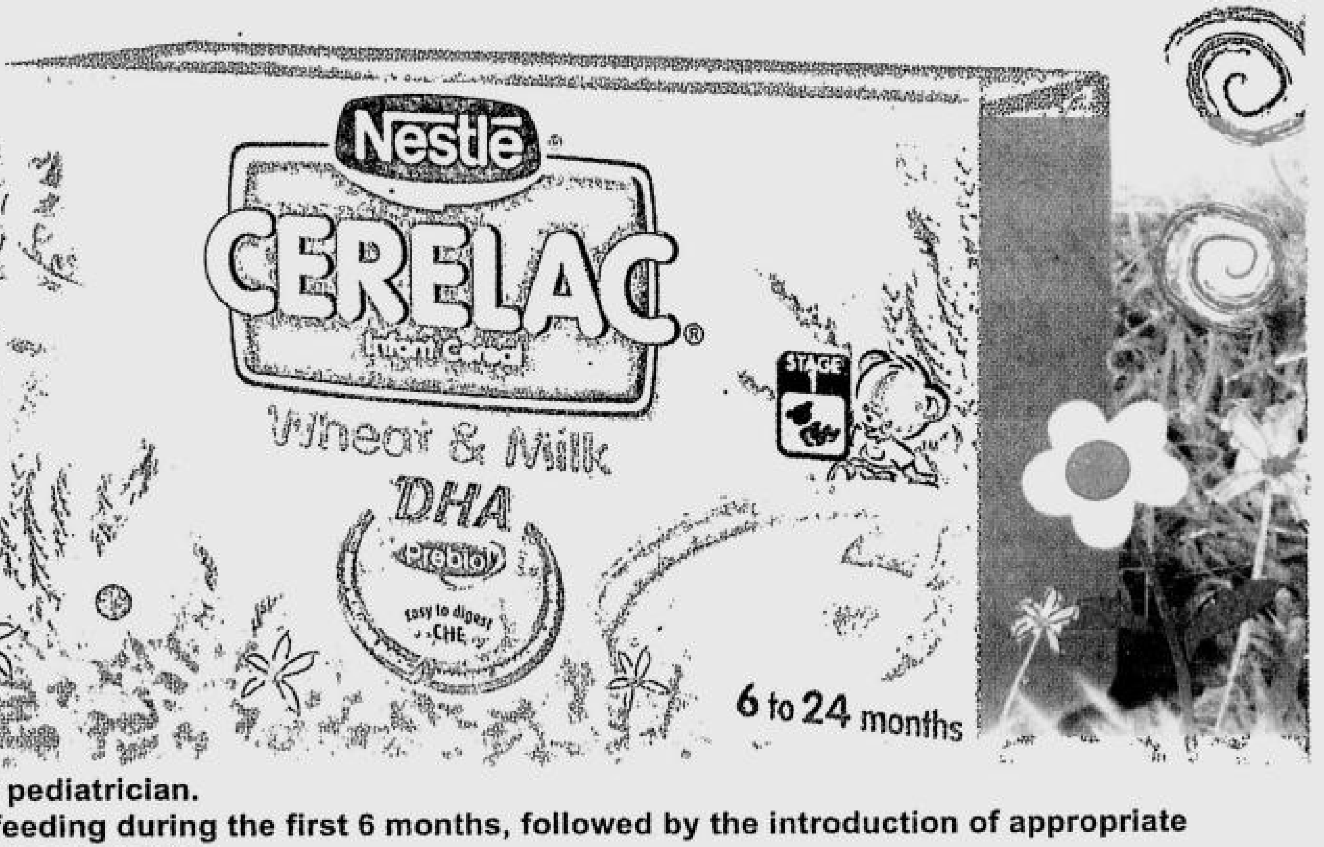
PROTEIN
Did you know that, per kilo of body weight, your baby needs more proteins than you do? That's because her body is busy building muscles and tissues. Every serving of CERELAC meets at least 53%* of baby's daily protein needs to help her grow strrrroooong!

IRON
Babies only need a little bit of iron everyday. But despite the small amount, many babies do not get enough. Iron helps the brain get the oxygen it needs to function well. Each serving of CERELAC has 50%* of the iron your baby needs everyday, to help your baby grow bright and alert!

Just because your baby's so small doesn't mean her nutrition needs are small too. CERELAC packs in the big nutrition your baby needs in a small amount that's just right for her little tummy.

Everyday, your baby is growing bigger, stronger, and more alert.
So make everyday a CERELAC day!

goodness & nutrition everyday!



For more information on the goodness of CERELAC, ask your pediatrician.
The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months, followed by the introduction of appropriate complementary foods with continued breastfeeding for as long as possible.
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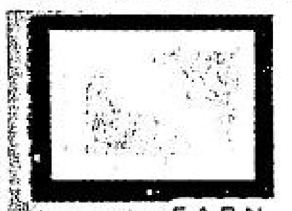

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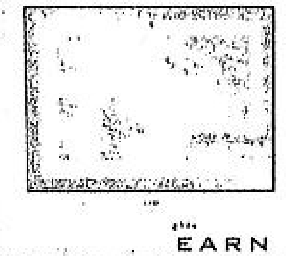

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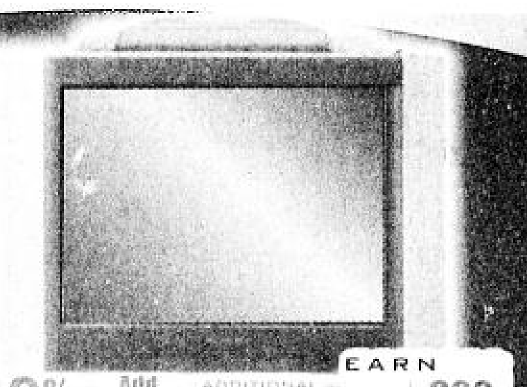

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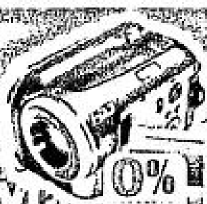

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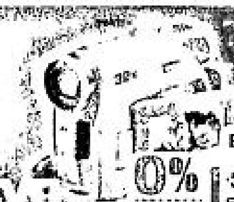

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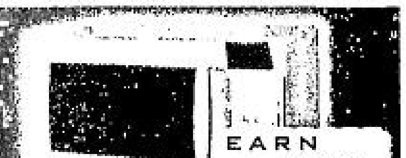

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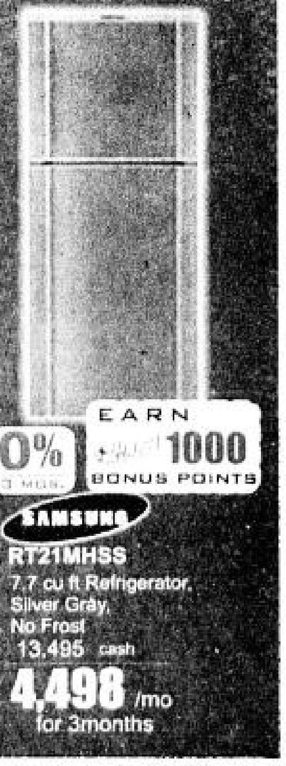

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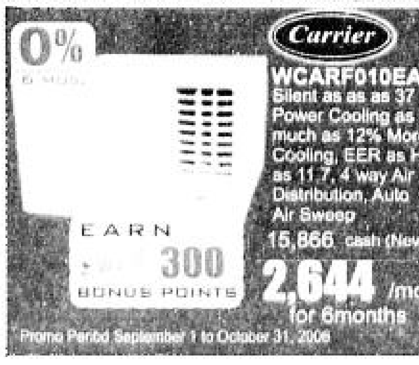

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Thinking of you
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Choose the Washer that Thinks of You

When you think of washing machines, you think of the electric bill shooting up, your clothes looking older faster, your water usage swelling uncontrollably and a complicated control panel that forces you to stick to a bar of soap and a big basin.

If you take a closer look, however, you will see that not all washing machines are made equal. These notions are based mainly on the topload washer that Filipinos have grown quite accustomed to over the years. Little did we know that on the other side of the world, a Thoughtful Company had already made life a lot easier with its innovation of a frontload washer that reigns as the number one choice throughout Europe.

Electrolux, a worldwide leader in electronic appliances, prides itself in always thinking of you, its customer, as the inspiration for every product. As such, it has addressed the issues that arise from topload machines in the form of a truly thoughtful frontload washer.

What makes a frontload washer different? It isn't just about loading clothes in front rather than on top - it's about a machine thinking gentler, thinking savings and thinking durability.

With every fiber of its being, the Electrolux EW880F Frontload Ultra Care Washer, was made with you in mind. This machine is designed for superior wash performance with its Aqua Shower Technology - a combination of features that give top cleaning performance while using less detergent and water.

You think that you cannot possibly do laundry without making a racket so the Electrolux Ultra Care Frontload Washer is equipped with Active Balance Control (ABC) to reduce noise and disturbances during spinning by up to 50%. Now you can use your washer without waking the kids, disturbing your neighbors or even your own nap. The machine increases its speed in small steps and goes up to full spin speed only when the laundry is evenly distributed and the drum is in complete balance.

You don't always have time to measure the detergent to load ratio or maybe you just don't know how. Electrolux has developed intelligent cleaning with the Active Rinse Sensor, which automatically adjusts the time and water needed based on the level of foam detected, ensuring the optimal amount of water and detergent for the cleanest clothes as well as the prevention of detergent residue.

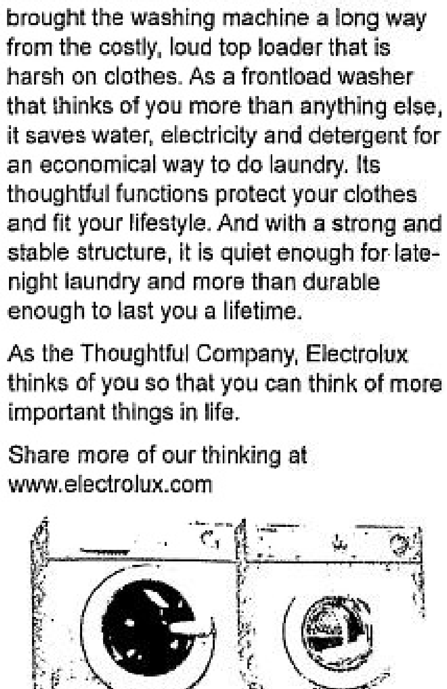
Electrolux thought of the average Joe, whose clothes get only slightly dirty after a day in the office, making it uneconomical to run a whole washing program. This is why you can choose the quick wash program to shorten the washing cycle by 50-70 minutes resulting not only to reduced energy consumption but protection of clothes from laundry abuse.

Even from the way it's made, the Electrolux Frontload Washer is in for the long haul. The Electrolux name is trusted all over the world for its commitment to quality. Its washing machines are subjected to countless hours of rigorous tests to ensure that your washer can be a life-long companion.

Today, with the Electrolux EW880F Ultra Care Frontload Washer, Electrolux has brought the washing machine a long way from the costly, loud top loader that is harsh on clothes. As a frontload washer that thinks of you more than anything else, it saves water, electricity and detergent for an economical way to do laundry. Its thoughtful functions protect your clothes and fit your lifestyle. And with a strong and stable structure, it is quiet enough for late-night laundry and more than durable enough to last you a lifetime.

As the Thoughtful Company, Electrolux thinks of you so that you can think of more important things in life.

Share more of our thinking at
www.electrolux.com



EW 880 F EDE 425 M

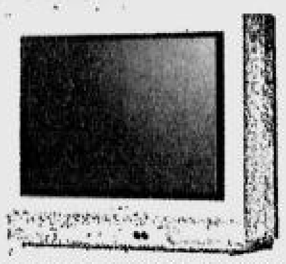
Electrolux Philippines, Inc.
Customer Care Trunkline: 829-0801
Domestic Toll Free No.: 1-800-1-888-0801

Available at: SM Appliance Stores • Abenson • Ansons Emporium Automatic Centre • Savers Mart • Ocampo's • Emcor • Metro Gaisano Robinson's Appliance and other leading appliance stores nationwide

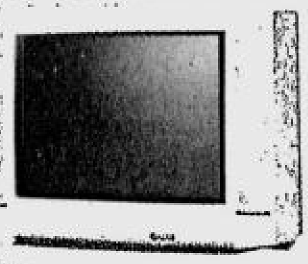
EASY FINANCING!

AS LOW AS P500 MONTHLY INSTALLMENT
FINANCING UP TO 36MONTHS!

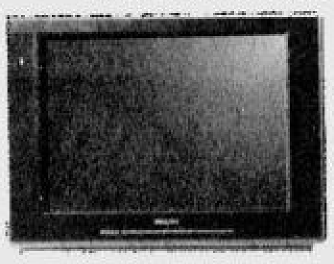
NO CREDIT CARD NEEDED • LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS • LOW DOWNPAYMENT • FAST APPROVAL • CALL 7500322



SHARP
21V-R75M
181 Channel Cable-Compatible Tuner,
EZ Set -up, Three Language Menu
on Screen, Energy Save Function
6998.00 cash **317/mo 36mos**



SHARP
21V-R230S
181 Channel Cable-Compatible Tuner,
EZ Set -up, Three Language Menu
on Screen, Energy Save Function
7598.00 cash **344/mo 36mos**

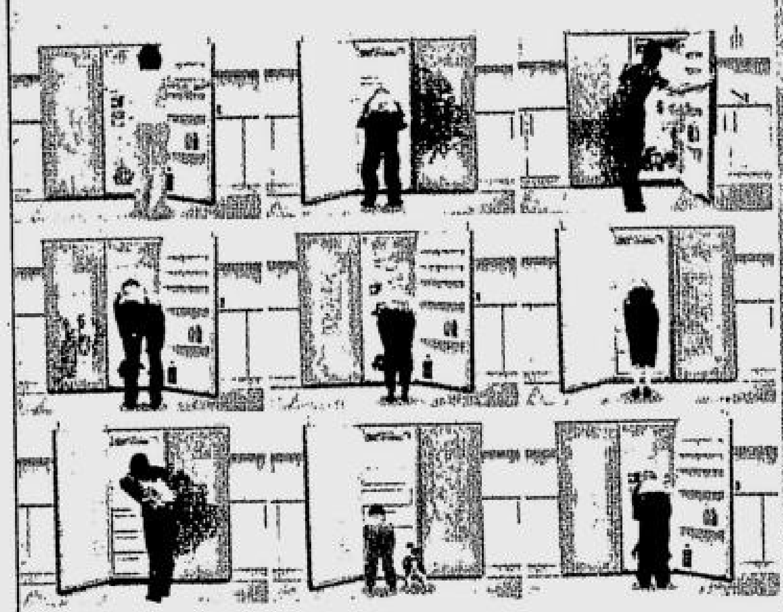


PHILIPS
21PT5026
Real Flat picture tube, Crystal Clear,
Active Control, Incredible Surround,
Smart Picture and Smart Sound,
10,980 cash **496/mo 36mos**

Citifinancial terms and conditions apply. Loans are subject to credit standards terms and conditions

Prices and Specification may vary without prior notice.

HUGE Benefits For the BIG Family

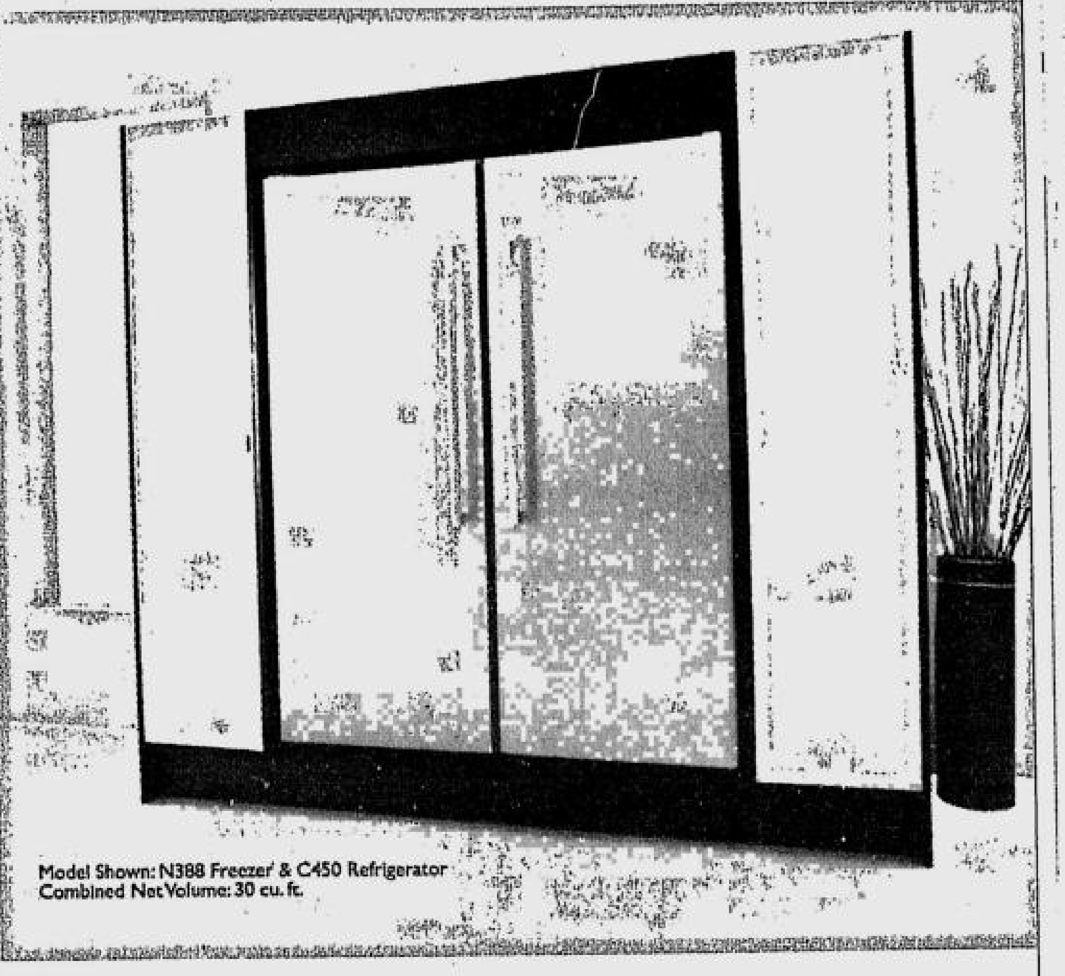


Busy families and those who enjoy entertaining at home will appreciate the style and convenience of **Fisher & Paykel's** matching pair—an all-freezer, all-refrigerator designed to come together beautifully providing 30 cu. ft. of contemporary luxury.

The right appliance doesn't just perform a useful function, it creates a visual impact. You can create a look without expensive renovations just by choosing your appliances carefully.

Fisher & Paykel gives you free reign to create the kitchen of your dreams. With your imagination and our extensive range of refrigerators and freezers there are no boundaries.

The Matching Pair ...



Model Shown: N388 Freezer & C450 Refrigerator
Combined Net Volume: 30 cu. ft.

Big on style and function.

Available at leading appliance stores nationwide. For more information call 564-1521 to 28 or visit us at www.fp.co.nz

Fisher&Paykel
innovative living

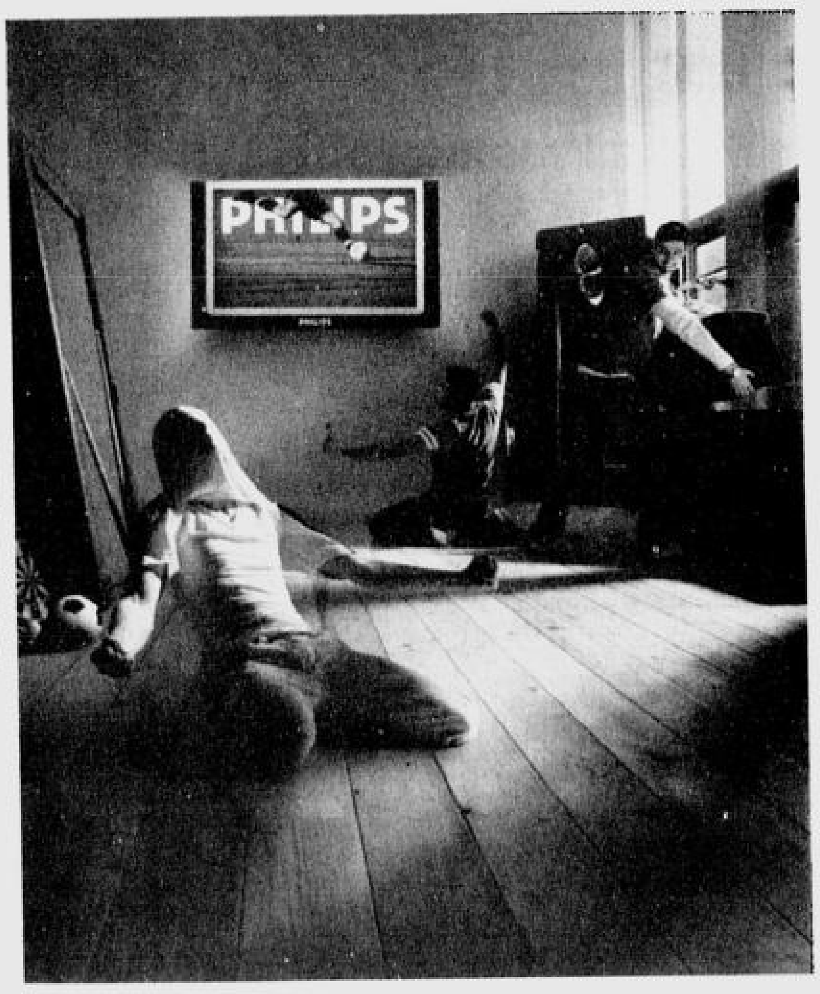
VISIT AN ABENSON STORE NEAR YOU!

Alabang	850-8850/8914
Angeles	(045) 888-9086
Avant	752-2315/19/20
Batangas	(043) 723-6790
Biñan	(049) 411-4511
Cabanatuan	(044) 464-1482
Cainta 1	645-0402 to 04
Cainta 2	681-5301to 05
Calamba	(049) 545-7034
Carmona	(046)430-2701/04
Commonwealth	951-8976/8991
Dasmariñas	(046) 416-2104/5287
Dau	(045) 892-4295
Ermita	400-0248/49
Congressional	927-9390/9520
Fairview	939-7906/7810
Farmers	911-1103/1494
Filinvest	850-3775
Galleria	632-9101/05/9117
Gapan	(044) 486-7649
General Trias	(046) 419-1148/1150
Glorietta 1	818-8453
Harrison Plaza	521-8560/69
Imus	(046) 471-8020/30
Jaka	829-2686/87
Kalookan	363-3346/5338
Las Piñas	872-0576/77
Libis	687-1613/1698
Lipa	(043) 404-1551
Lotus	(046) 515-5749/51
Lucena	(042) 373-0443
Makati	812-2882/1584
Malabon	287-0478/0344
Metropoint	833-7685/7829
Metropolis	809-8174/8921
Missouri	722-1264/4187
Pasig	656-6643/47
Pearl Plaza	851-8401/03
Plaridel	(044) 795-3271
Quezon City	724-2570/2501
Riverbanks	941-5003/5191
SM City, N.E.	920-9151/53
Rosario	(046) 438-5457
Rustans	911-2313/3484
San Joaquin, Pasig	641-4452
San Pablo	(049) 562-8242
Shangri-la	638-8019/49/60
Sta Rosa	(049) 534-4669/4619
St. Francis	633-1362/64
Tarlac	(045) 985-1278/1253
Tayuman	252-5787/98/86
The Fort	886-6620/6491/92
Valenzuela	277-9536/38/39
Showroom	631-5188
LCC-Naga	(054) 473-6003
Pacific Mall -Legazpi	(052) 480-6266
LCC-Legazpi	(052) 480-7949

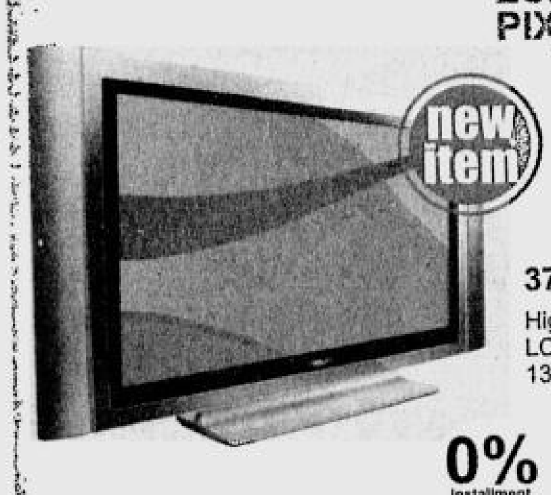
PHILIPS

Switch your viewing experience into overdrive.

Visit Abenson's BPI exhibit
at Glorietta and get
FREEBIES
upon purchase of
all PHILIPS Products
until September 17, 2006

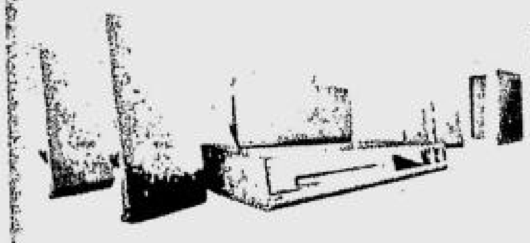


Latest Model
37" wide screen
LCD TV with
PIXEL plus



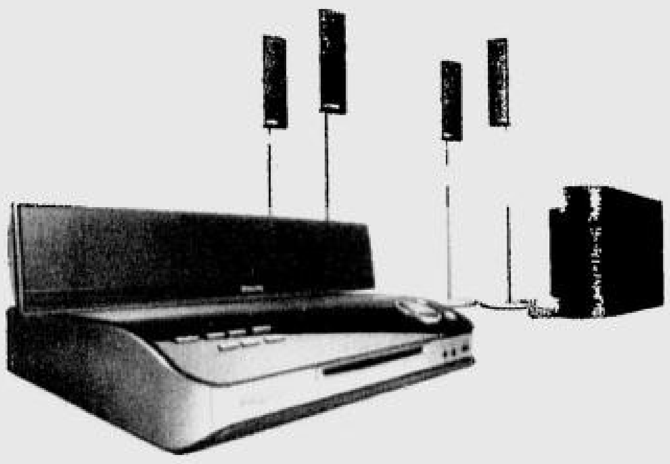
37PF7321
High Definition
LCD WXGA Display
1366x768p

0% installment for 18 mos. P8,888 /mo.
P159,980 cash



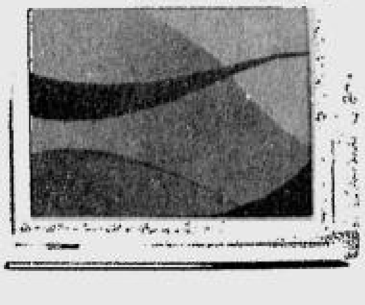
free item
HTS3100
DTS,
ProLogic II
Karaoke

Home Theater Systems that rock your world. DVD players that dazzle.



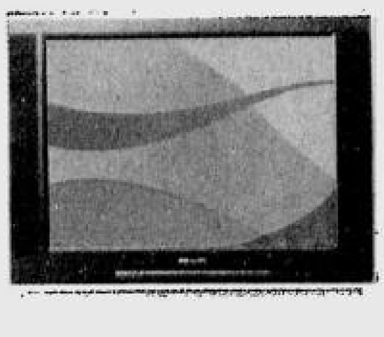
HTS4750
DVD Home Theatre System with Video
Upscaling up to 1080i
12 bit DAC
Progressive Scan
Dolby Digital
Dolby Prologic II
DTS Stereo
Dynamic Bass Enchancement
Karaoke
USB Connectivity
MP3 Direct input
HDMI

0% installment for 12 mos. P2,500 /mo.
P29,990 cash



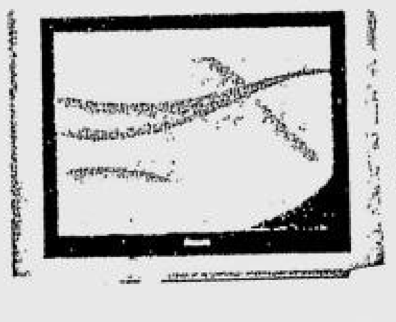
29PT5006
Real Flat Picture Tube
Active Control
AV Stereo

0% installment for 12 mos. P2,248 /mo.
P26,980 cash



21PT5026
10W Music Power
Autostore, Fine Tuning Installation
2x5W RMS

0% installment for 12 mos. P 915 /mo.
P10,980 cash



29PT3425
4:3 Aspect Ratio
29 in / 72 cm screen size
2 Built-In Speakers

0% installment for 12 mos. P2,415 /mo.
P28,980 cash

with free DVD Micro Theater

ABENSON

OVER 1 MILLION POINTS GIVE AWAY!

Plus! REWARDS PROGRAM
ABENSON Plus!
7700 0001

Get a chance to win!
100,000
Plus! points
and
100 winners or
10,000
Plus! points

Double chances of winning for AIG Cardholder

FREE LCD TV

when you buy a Samsung 32"LCD TV and above LCD

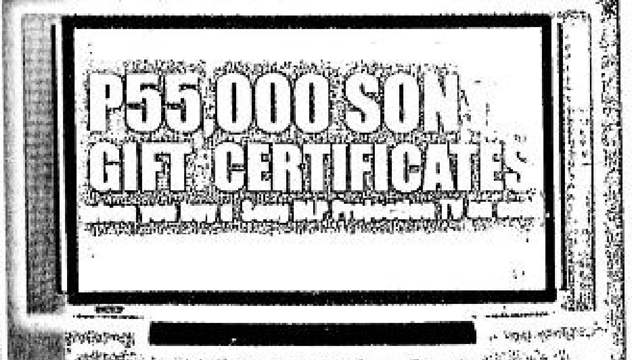
0% 12 mos.
FREE
SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG

32M61
- 32" HDTV Ready LCD TV
- 1366 x 768 Resolution
- 5,000; 1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
- DNIe (Digital Natural Image Engine)
- My Color Control, Brightness Sensor
- HDMI Digital Interface, PC Input
- SRS TruSurround XT

149,900 cash
12,491 /mo
for 12months

LNR 2050
20" LCD TV
Resolution 800 x 600
Brightness 500cd/m²
Contrast ratio 500:1
Digital Clear Sound

0% interest installment is applicable on selected items provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank approval   Prices and Specification may vary without prior notice. Terms and condition apply



SONY

[illegible]

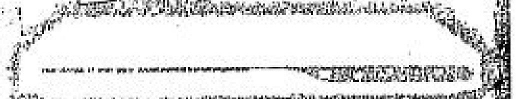
MP3 player only P298

SHARP

[illegible]

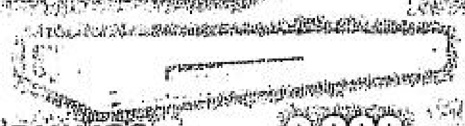
8,498

GREAT VALUE DVD BUYS!



LG 2,999

[illegible]



PHILIPS 2,990

DVD/VCD/CD/MP3 JPEG Player [illegible]

12MONTHS 0% ON MAGIC SING

MAGIC SING MABUHAY ED8000	11,450 cash **954** /mo for 12months
MAGIC SING PAPURI ED7000	11,950 cash **996** /mo for 12months
MAGIC SING FIESTA ED9000	8,990 cash **749** /mo for 12months

EARN UP TO 1500 BONUS POINTS

LG
EARN Plus! 1,500 BONUS POINTS

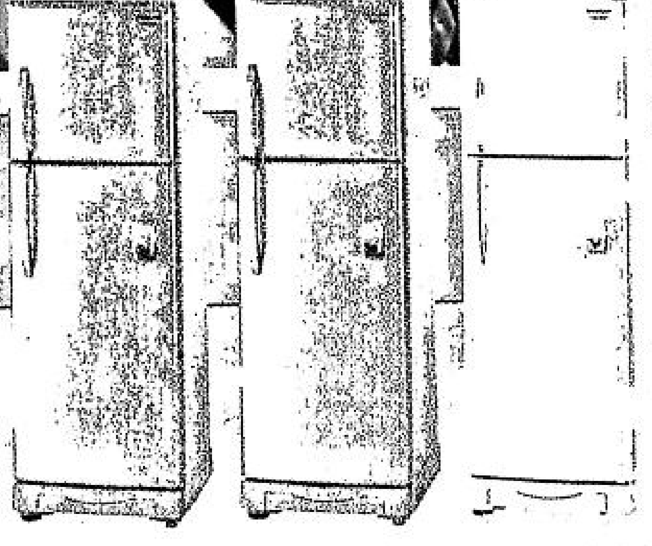
ABENSON EXTENDED WARRANTY

For as low as P2 /day
Get 2 year
Extended Warranty

[illegible]

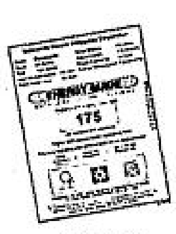
Panasonic
ideas for life
Panasonic

Cool ref. Cool mom.

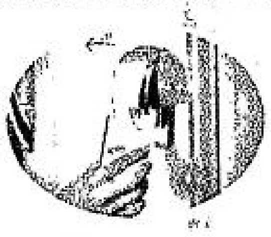


Panasonic Frost Free Refrigerators take away the hassles of defrosting. Without defrosting, you save hours of your valuable time. Now, you can spend more time with yourself and your family.

POWER SAVER Pure



HIGH EEF
Consumes less power, so you can save on electric bills



WATER DISPENSER
Reduces door openings by 50%. Gravity type with 2.8 liter capacity which doesn't use up electricity

Metallic Blue	Titanium Gray	Snowy White

Available in 7 cu. ft. (NR-B705AC) and 8 cu. ft. (NR-B805AC)

www.panasonic.com.ph

SYLVIA REYNOSO GALA'S CHOICE

Aside from being a culinary expert, I'm also a Mom. That's why I like my Panasonic Frost Free Refrigerator. It takes away the hassles of defrosting, giving me a little more Mommy time!

Now, I get to spend my extra time whipping up only the best dishes for my family. And nothing spells great-tasting meals than food prepared simply, with the highest quality ingredients.

Panasonic Frost Free Refrigerators always preserve my ingredients' freshness and quality. It's simple to operate, yet it does its job well. It preserves your food the way you want it. Meat stays frozen, and vegetables remain crisp. Because of this, I get the quality ingredients I need to come up with excellent recipes.

With a Panasonic Frost Free Refrigerator, you don't have to regularly defrost your freezer, which takes a lot of time and effort. And because it has a high EEF (Energy Efficiency) ratio, it consumes less power, giving you more savings.

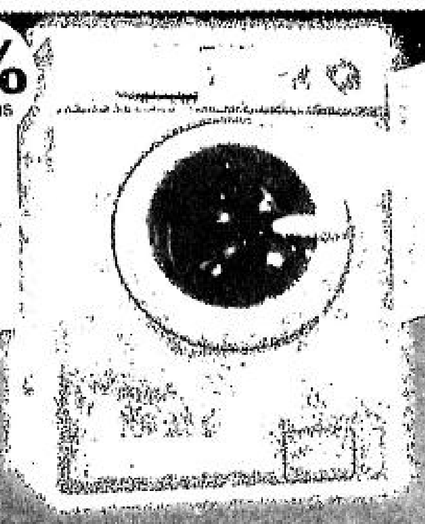
In my more than 17 years of using Panasonic products, it has never let me down. For me, it's more than just using a brand with the biggest name in home appliances. Panasonic stands for quality and durability. Through the years, it has never proven me wrong.

My motto has always been, "If you want the best results, go for the best." And I have. I use only the best. I choose only Panasonic.

Sylvia Reynoso Gala
SYLVIA REYNOSO GALA

0%
6 months

Electrolux
EW550F
5 kg wash capacity
Full Load
P5,000 /mo
P30,000 SRP

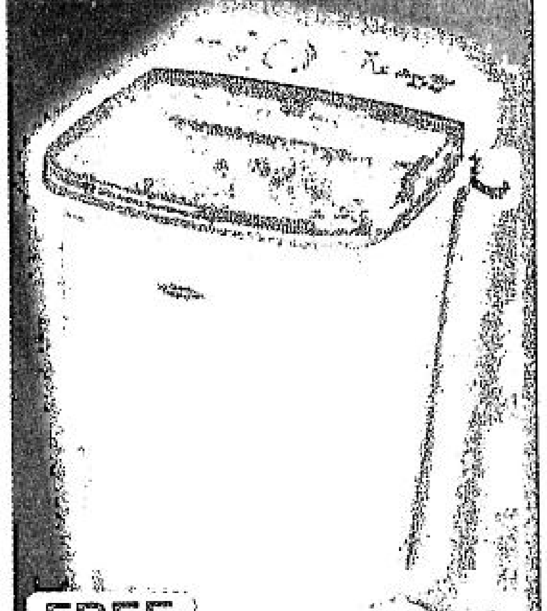


ABENSON
Laundry Made Easy
Choosing a washing machine at Abenson

on a wide selection of SHARP & PANASONIC washing machines
Available on selected items only. Valid until September 30, 2006
0% interest installment is applicable on selected items provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to [illegible]

FREE
Laundry Basket

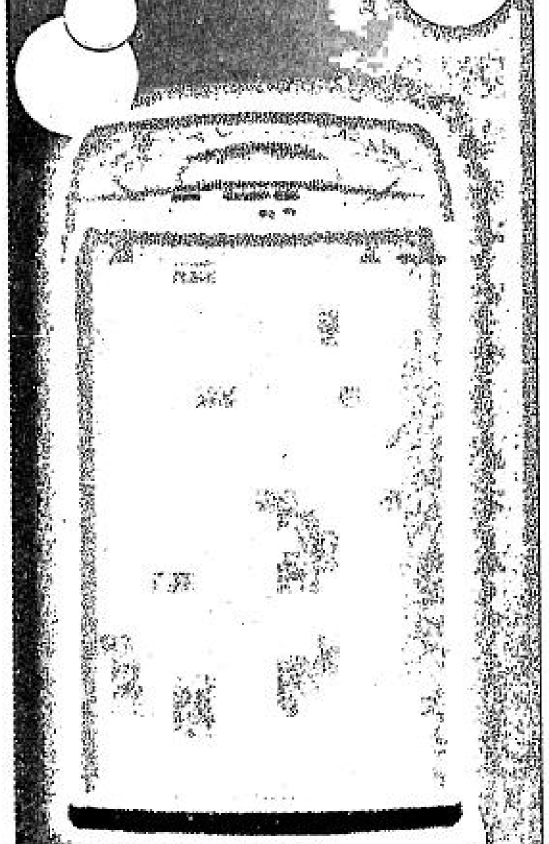
SHARP
ES-3310TSW
3.3kg wash capacity
- 45-min. Max Soak Function
- Rat-proof Polypropylene Base
- Large Pulsator
P5,098 SRP



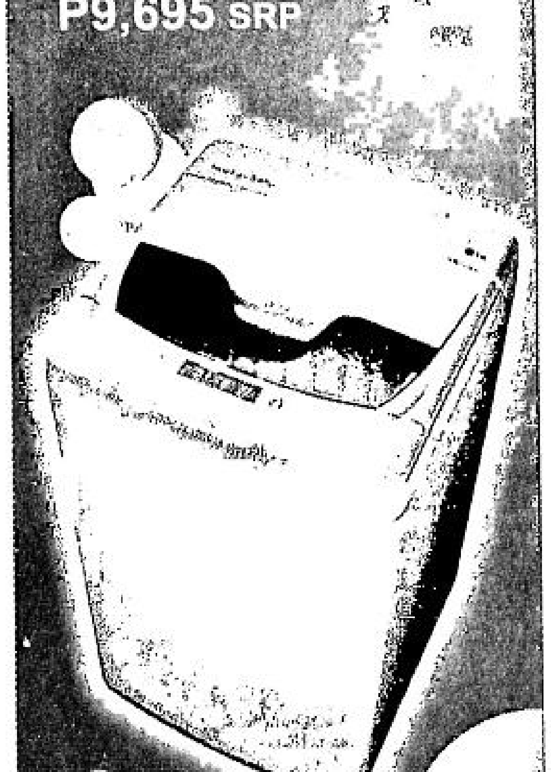
FREE
Laundry Basket

Super Sulit

SHARP
ES - W675
6.7 kg wash capacity
Large capacity
space saving
P4,398 SRP

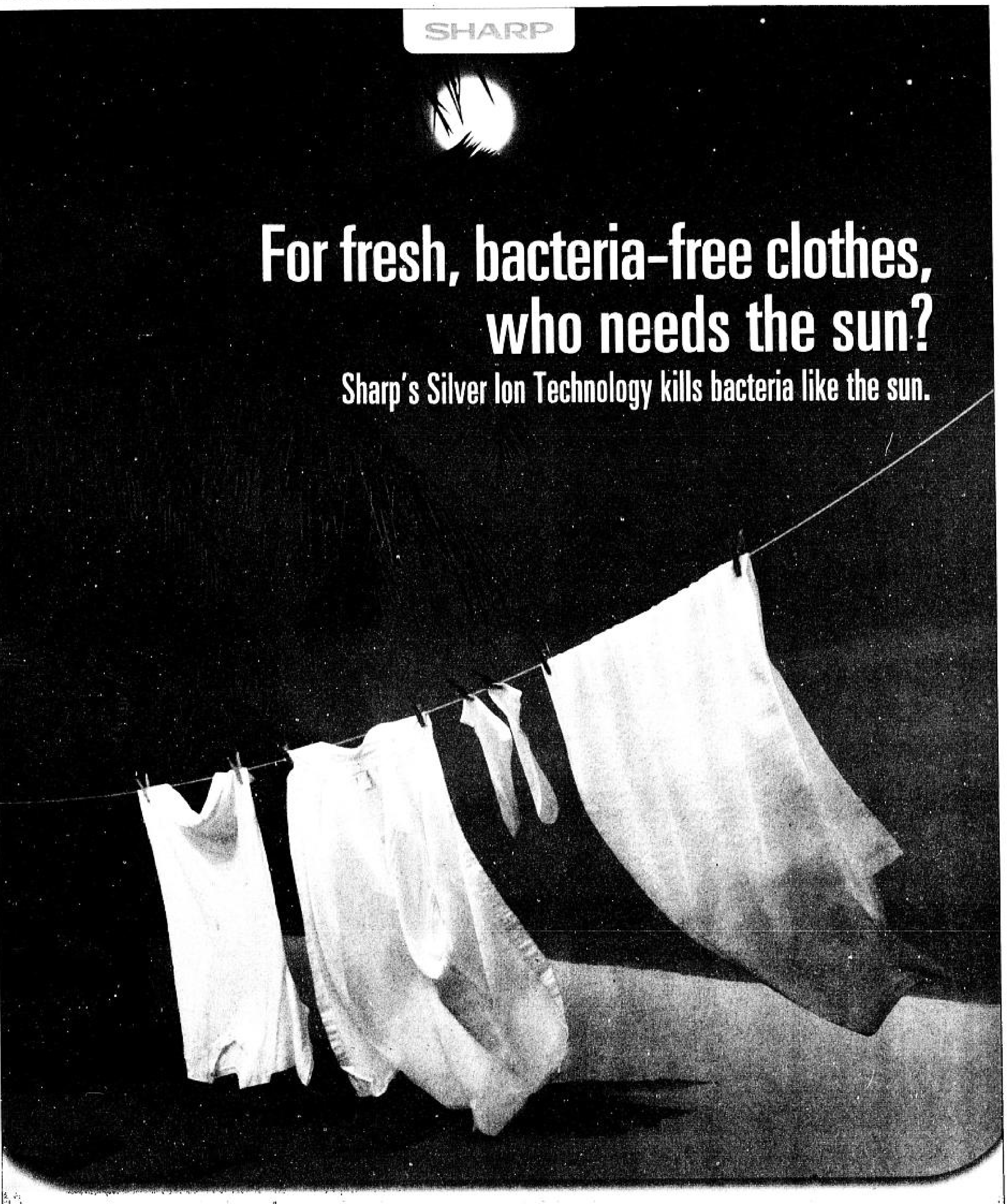


SAMSUNG
WA60N
6.0 kg wash capacity
Pulsator
P9,695 SRP



LG
WF-T6060
3-step washing
4 wash programs
Plastic design
P9,595 SRP

SHARP



For fresh, bacteria-free clothes, who needs the sun?

Sharp's Silver Ion Technology kills bacteria like the sun.

Silvermagic
washing machines

ES-AG 850PF
(8 kg)

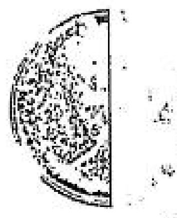
ES-AG 650P
(6 kg)

ALSO AVAILABLE IN 5kg and 7kg MODELS.

The Sharp Silver Ion (Ag^+) technology

State-of-the-art germ killing machine

Sharp's revolutionary Silver Ion Technology coats clothes with silver ions during the rinse cycle. The silver ion particles act like the sun's rays to effectively kill odor- causing bacteria, protecting fabrics from germs until the next wash. The hole-less stainless tub prevents mold growth that is common to plastic tubs.



Better than regular rinsing

In a bacteria-growth test comparing a normally rinsed fabric and a silver ion coated fabric, after 18 hours of storage at 37°C, results showed that the Silver Ion coating was more efficient in reducing the growth of odor-causing bacteria.

Best for condominium living

The silver ions help prevent damp odors, keeping half-dried and even indoor-dried clothes smelling fresh. The ion generator can be set to get rid of stubborn bacteria which cling on odor prone laundry such as socks, sportswear, bed sheets and blankets.

Certified by the experts

The Sharp Silvermagic Washing Machine's anti-microbial power has been certified by the Kyoto Microorganism Lab's Test for Antibacterial Activity and Efficacy on Textile Products.

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

······· be sharp

www.sharp.ph

Reader's Digest Philippines TRUSTED BRAND 2006

GfK certified Philippines

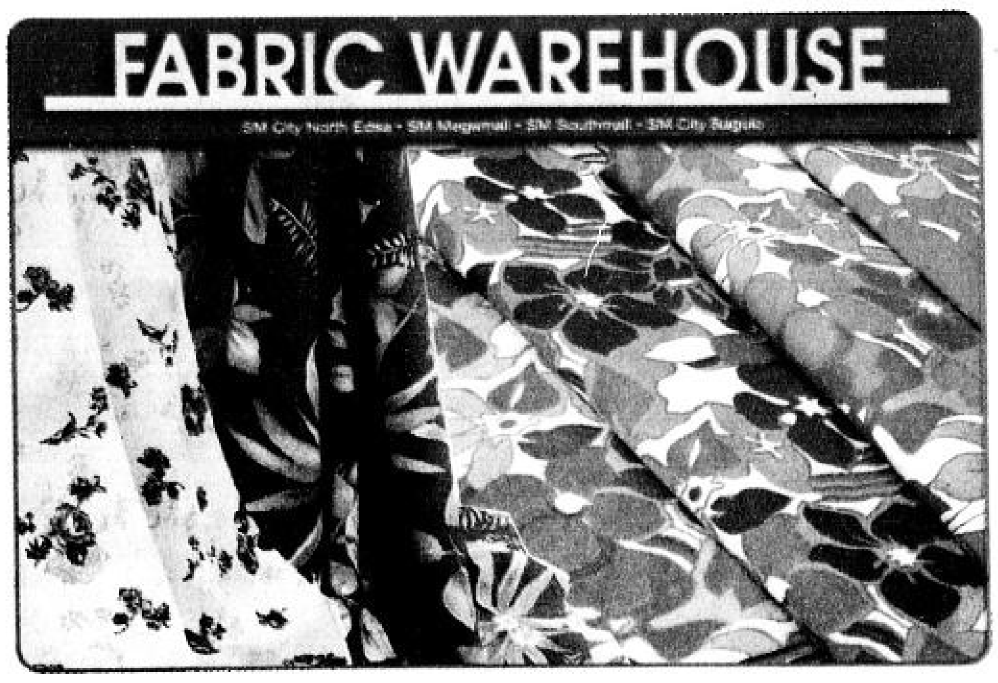
More consumers trust Sharp washing machines.

Sharp is 2006 Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Gold Awardee for washing machine category. It is also one of the leading washing machine brands in the Philippines, according to Growth for Knowledge (GfK), a global market research organization.

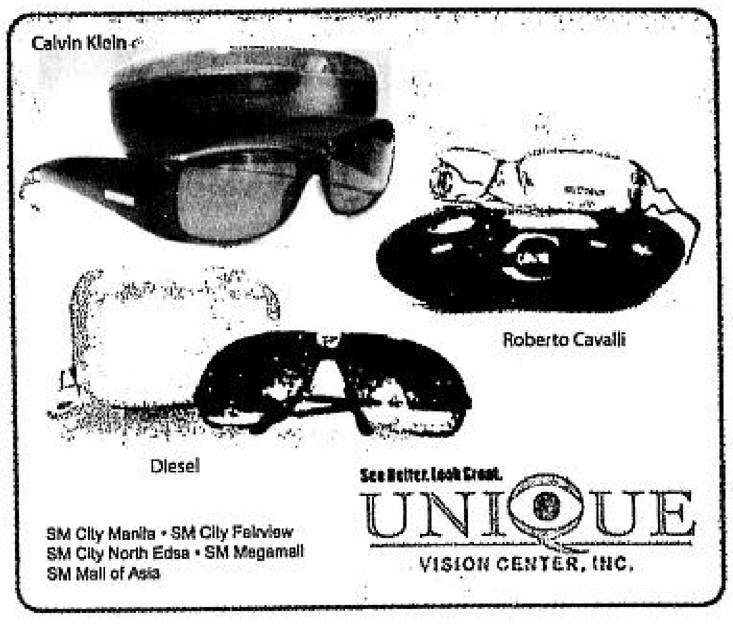
LGF SM City Fairview • G/F SM City North Edsa

OPTICAL Works
"Doing what's BEST for your VISION"
Carven
MaxMara
Gucci

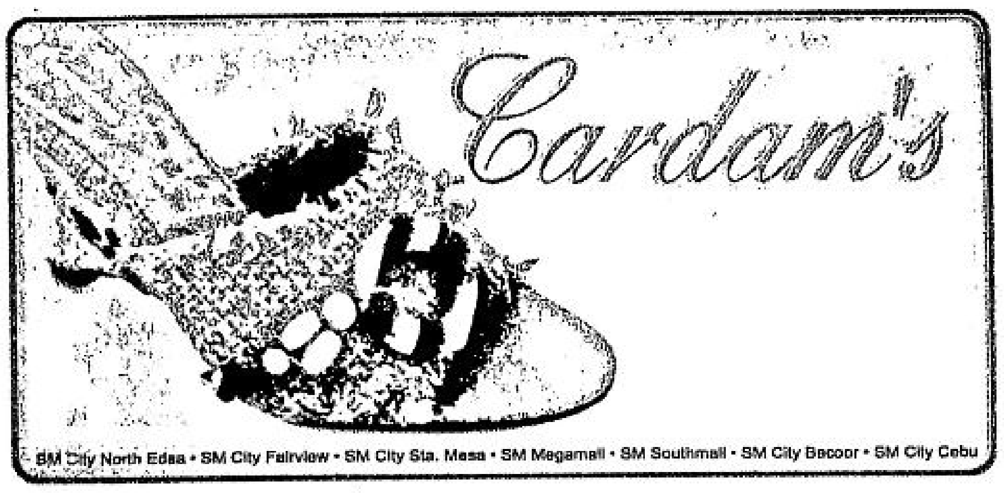
SM City North Edsa • SM Southmall • SM City Pampanga • SM City Bacoor • SM City Lucena • SM City Marilao
SM City Dasmariñas • Soon to Open SM City Lipa


FABRIC WAREHOUSE

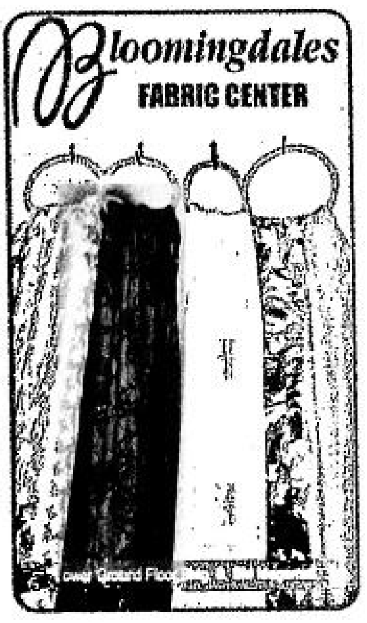
SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall • SM Southmall • SM City Baguio


Calvin Klein
Roberto Cavalli
Diesel
See Better. Look Great.
UNIQUE
VISION CENTER, INC.

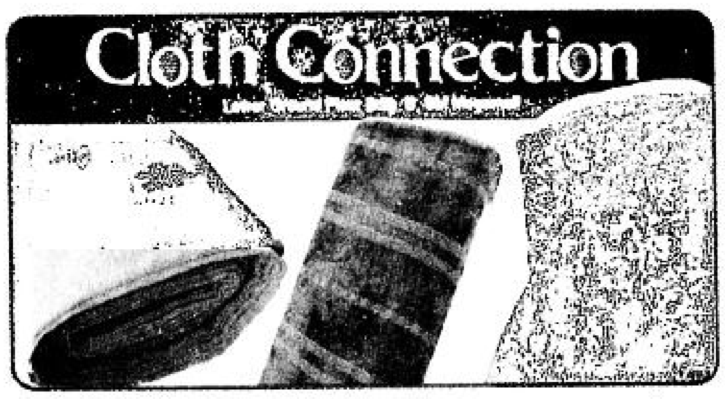
SM City Manila • SM City Fairview
SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall
SM Mall of Asia

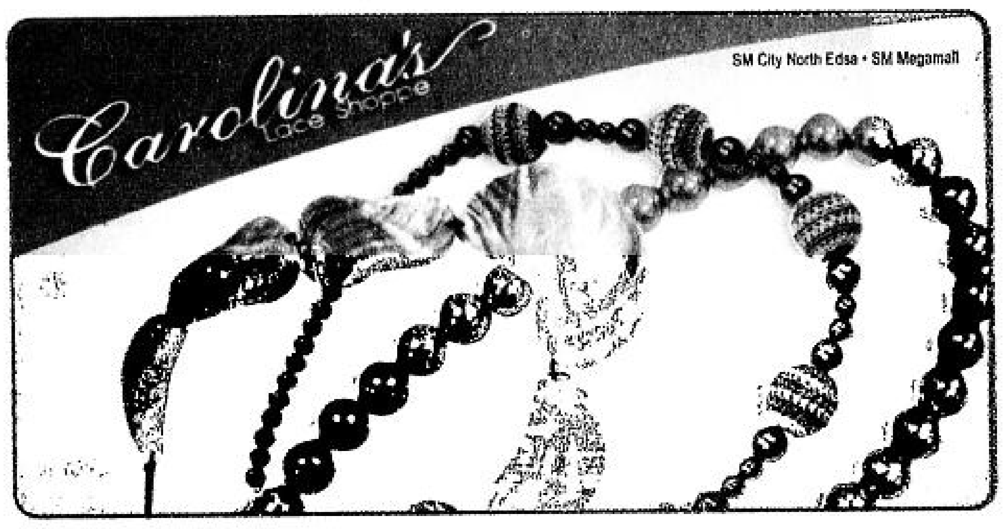


SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM City Sta. Mesa • SM Megamall • SM Southmall • SM City Bacoor • SM City Cebu


Bloomingdales
FABRIC CENTER

Lower Ground Floor


Cloth Connection


Carolina's
Lace Shoppe

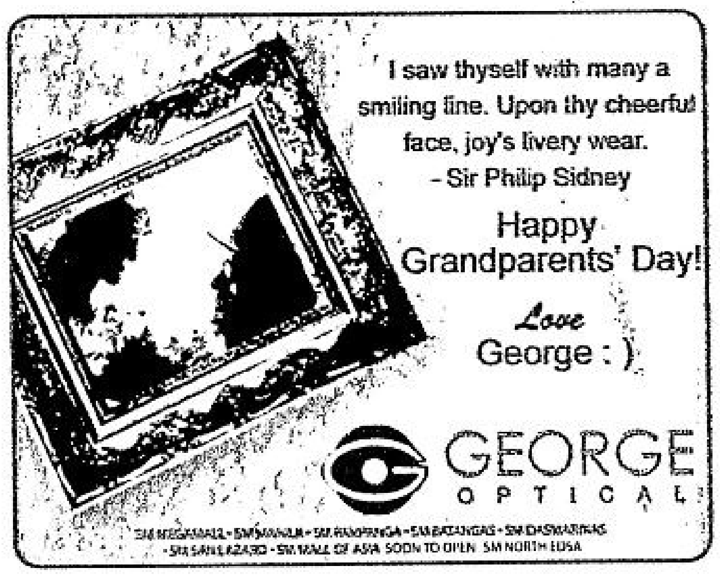
SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall

Shop FOR Lolo & Lola

Sunday, September 10 Grandparents' Day

SM SUPERMALLS

THE OPTICAL SHOP
Rayban
Versace

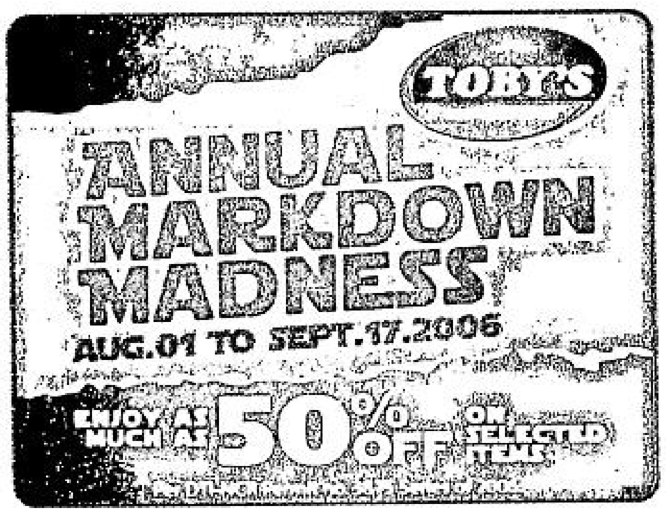

I saw thyself with many a smiling line. Upon thy cheerful face, joy's livery wear.
- Sir Philip Sidney

Happy Grandparents' Day!

Love
George :)

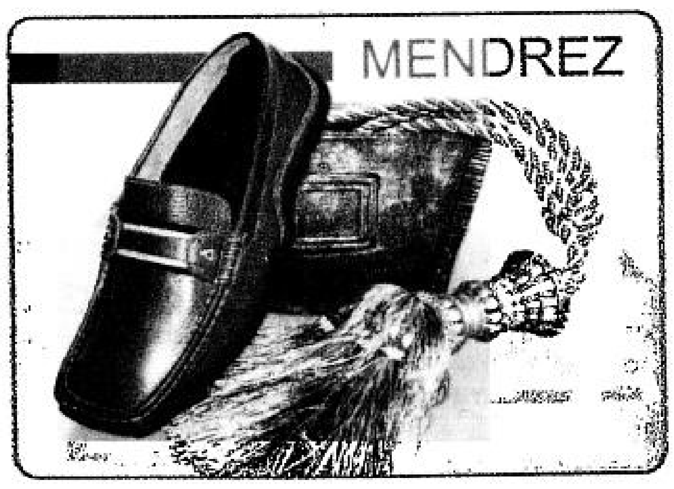
GEORGE OPTICAL

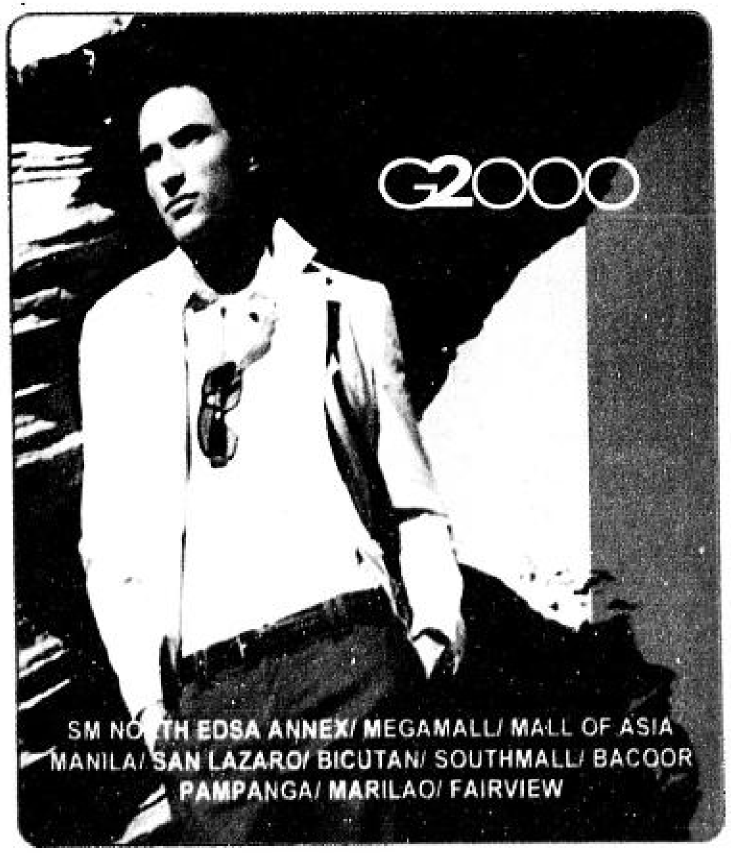
SM MEGAMALL • SM MANILA • SM PAMPANGA • SM BATANGAS • SM DASMARIÑAS • SM SAN LAZARO • SM MALL OF ASIA SOON TO OPEN SM NORTH EDSA



ANNUAL MARKDOWN MADNESS
AUG.01 TO SEPT.17.2006
ENJOY AS MUCH AS 50% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS

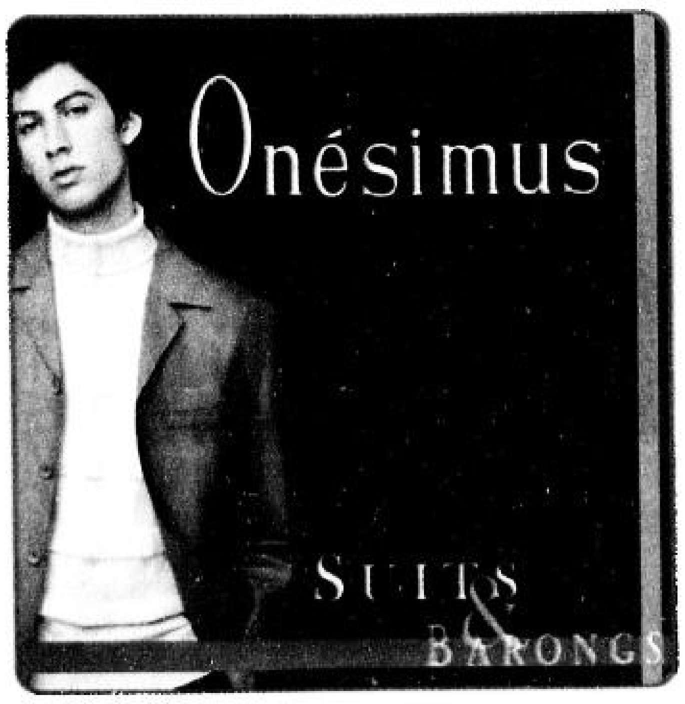
GQ
Gentlemen's Quintessence
CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN LINE





SM NORTH EDSA ANNEX/ MEGAMALL/ MALL OF ASIA
MANILA/ SAN LAZARO/ BICUTAN/ SOUTHMALL/ BACOOR
PAMPANGA/ MARILAO/ FAIRVIEW

"The Best Perfume brand in the Philippines"
PRESCRIPTO


Onésimus
SUITS & BARONGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA • SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS • SM CITY STA. MESA • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY SAN LAZARO • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM CITY SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY BACOOR

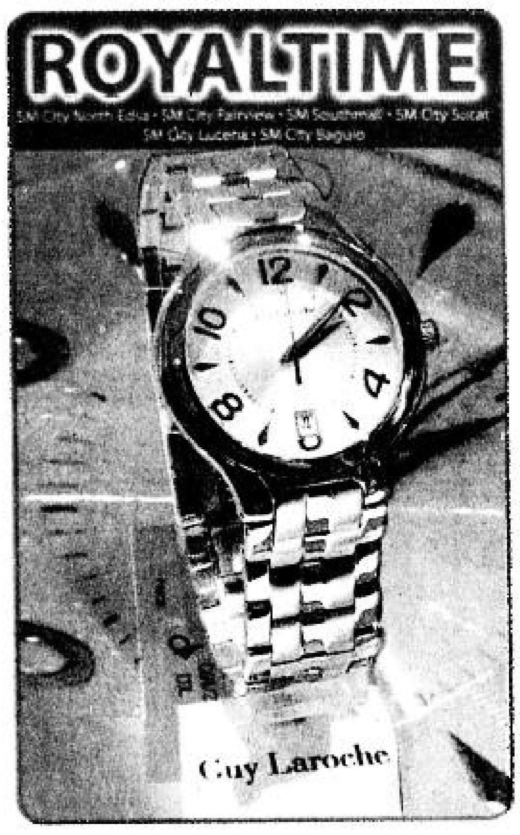
End of Season
Sale
up to 50% off
now thru Sept. 30, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3835, Series of 2006

occasions
Free Shawl
PROMO now thru Sept. 15, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2052, Series of 2006

RUSTY LOPEZ
20% to 50% OFF
on regular priced & selected marked down shoes, apparel & accessories
now thru Sept. 15, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2346, Series of 2006

Anniversay **sportshouse**
SALE up to 70% OFF on selected items
Promo runs from: August 11 to October 15, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2006

SILVERWORKS


ROYALTIME
SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM Southmall • SM City Sucat
SM City Lucena • SM City Baguio

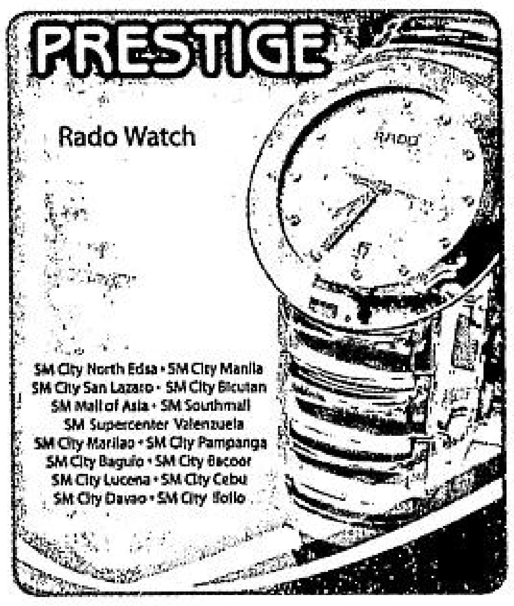
UniSilver
Finest Silver Jewelry

TIMETRONICS
Swiss Army Watch
2nd Floor Main Bldg. SM City North Edsa

TIMESTUDIO
SM City North Edsa • SM City San Lazaro • SM Supercenter Valenzuela • SM Megamall
SM Southmall • SM City Bicutan • SM City Sta. Rosa • SM City Pampanga
SM Mall of Asia • SM City Baguio • SM City Batangas • SM City Clark

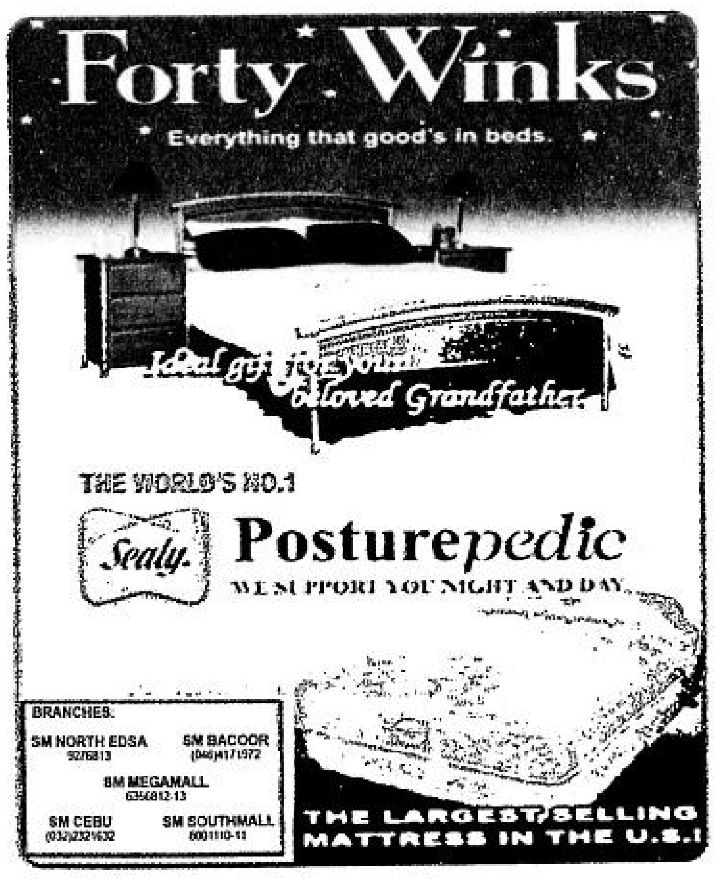
FILIGRENASIA
The timeless elegance of silver...

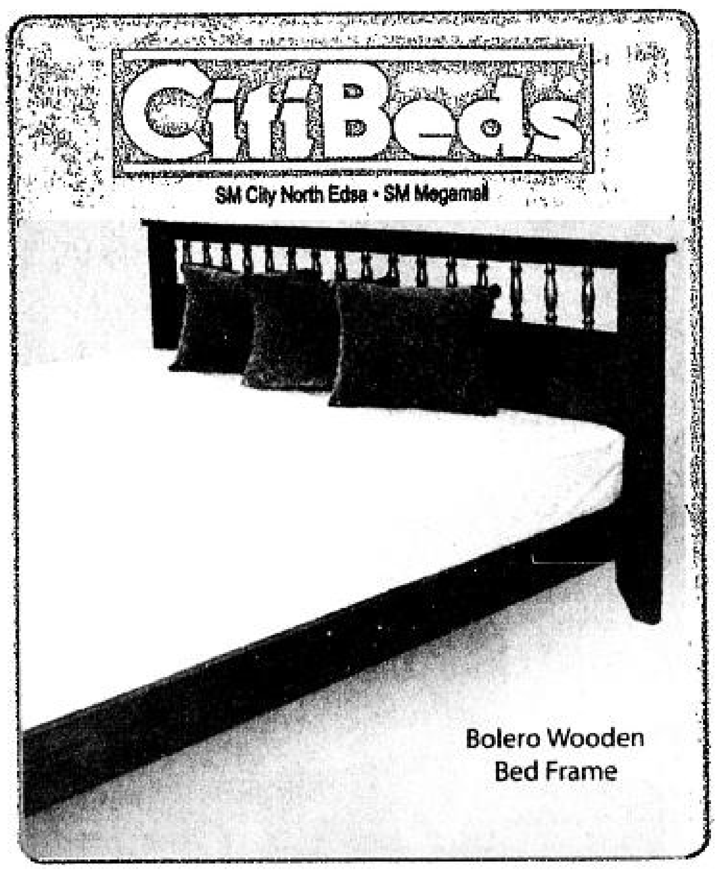
Carrera by Tag Heuer
TIME TREND
Ground Floor Bldg. B, SM Megamall

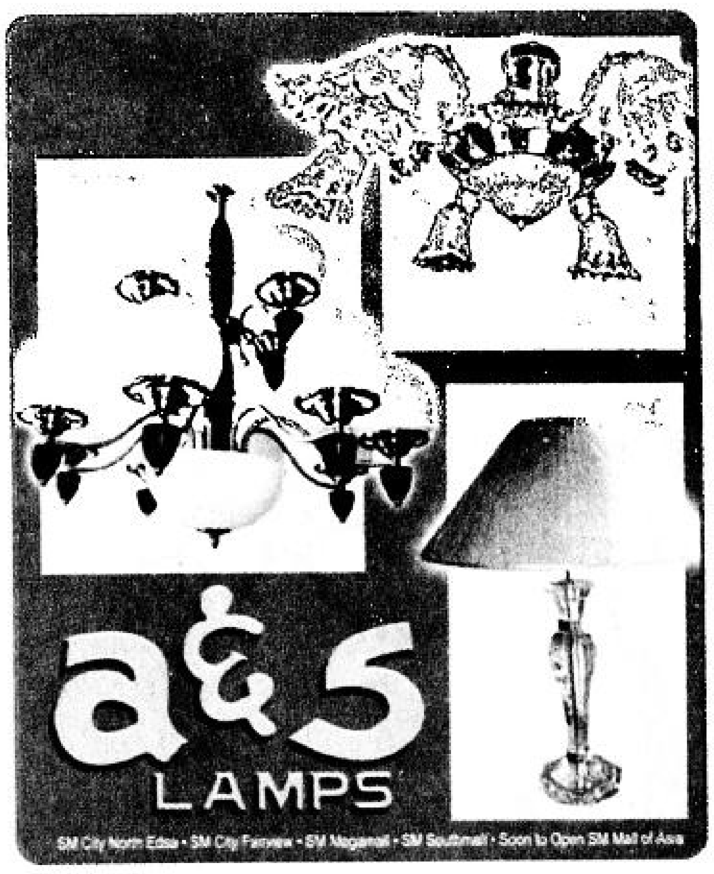

PRESTIGE
Rado Watch
SM City North Edsa • SM City Manila
SM City San Lazaro • SM City Bicutan
SM Mall of Asia • SM Southmall
SM Supercenter Valenzuela
SM City Marilao • SM City Pampanga
SM City Baguio • SM City Bacoor
SM City Lucena • SM City Cebu
SM City Davao • SM City Iloilo

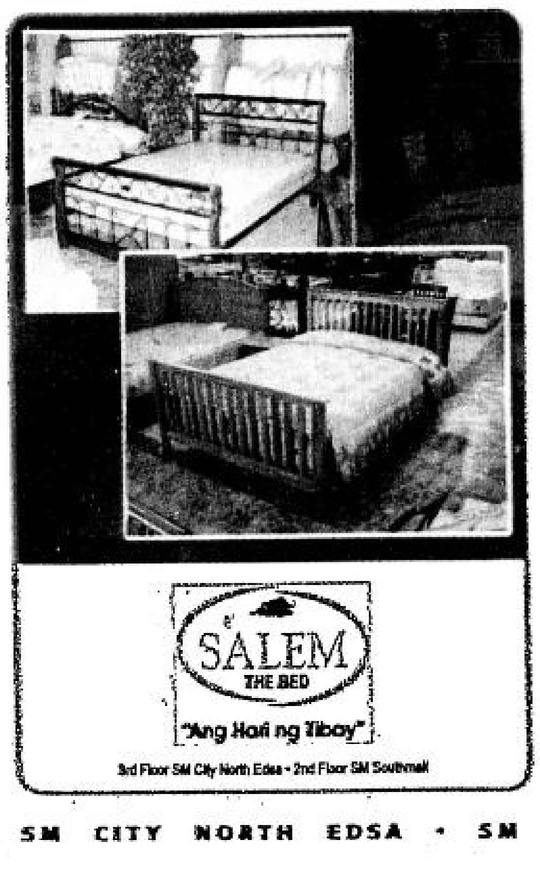
grand choic

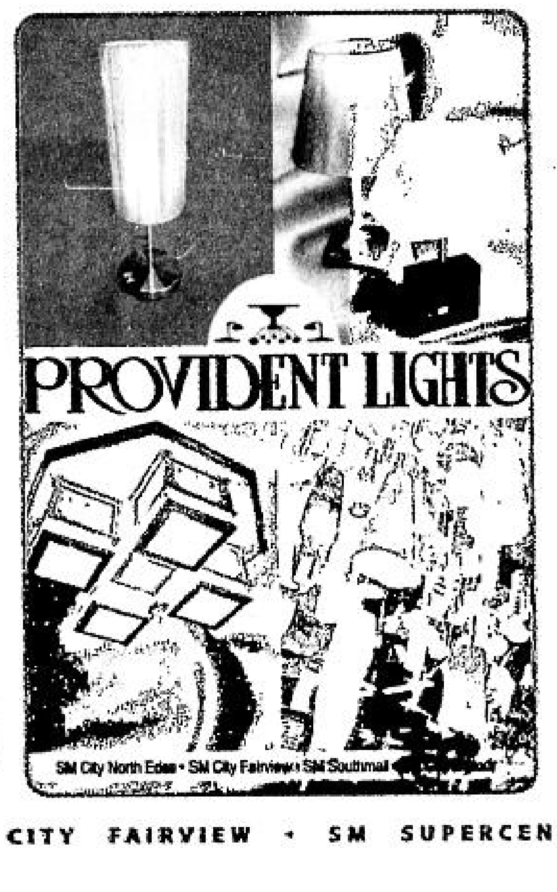
Sunday September 10 is Grandpa


Forty Winks
Everything that good's in beds.
Ideal gift for your beloved Grandfather.
THE WORLD'S NO.1
Sealy Posturepedic
WE SUPPORT YOU NIGHT AND DAY.
BRANCHES:
SM NORTH EDSA 9276813
SM BACOOR (046)4171972
SM MEGAMALL 6356812-13
SM CEBU (032)2321632
SM SOUTHMALL 8001110-11
THE LARGEST SELLING MATTRESS IN THE U.S.!

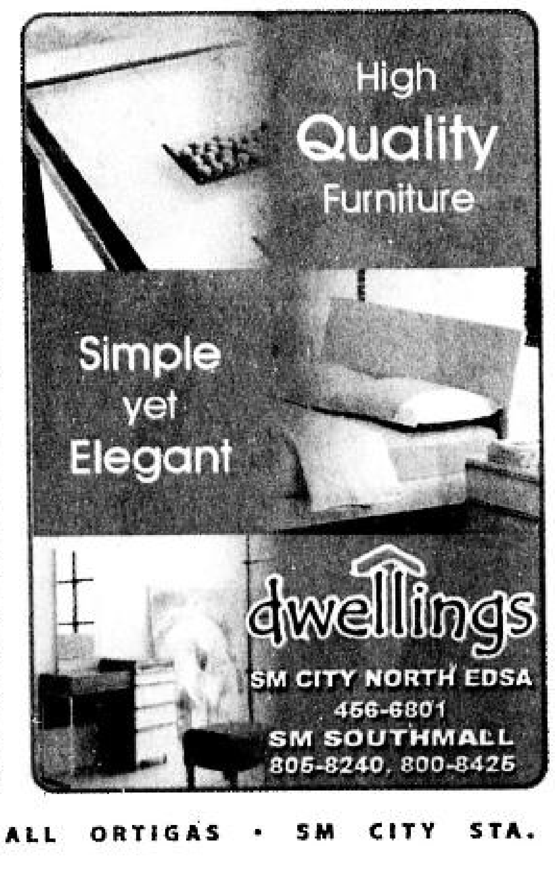

CitiBeds
SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall
Bolero Wooden
Bed Frame


a&s LAMPS
SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM Megamall • SM Southmall • Soon to Open SM Mall of Asia


SALEM THE BED
"Ang Hari ng Tibay"
3rd Floor SM City North Edsa • 2nd Floor SM Southmall


PROVIDENT LIGHTS
SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM Southmall • [illegible]

BRIGHT WORLD
Armaflex
Energy Saving Lamp
GREEN LIGHTING
Save 80% electricity
SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview
SM Megamall • SM City Bicutan
BRIGHT WORLD


High Quality Furniture
Simple yet Elegant
dwellings
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456-6801
SM SOUTHMALL
805-8240, 800-8425

SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA • SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS • SM CITY STA. MES

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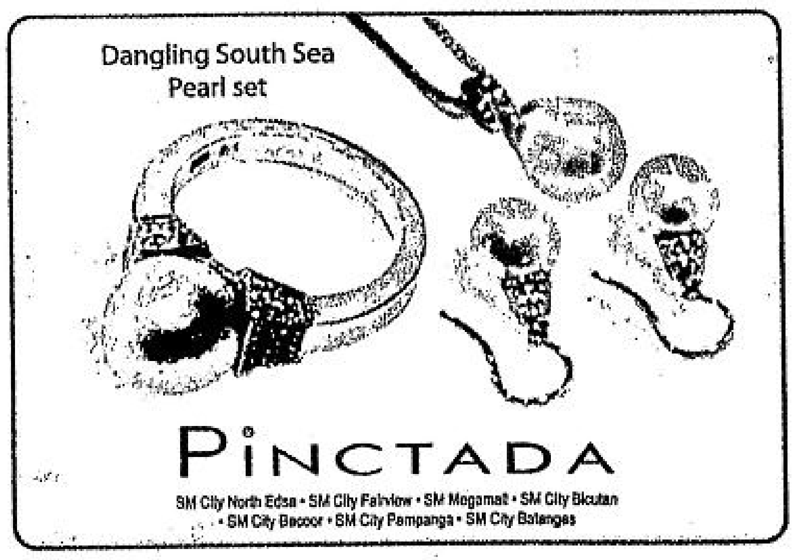
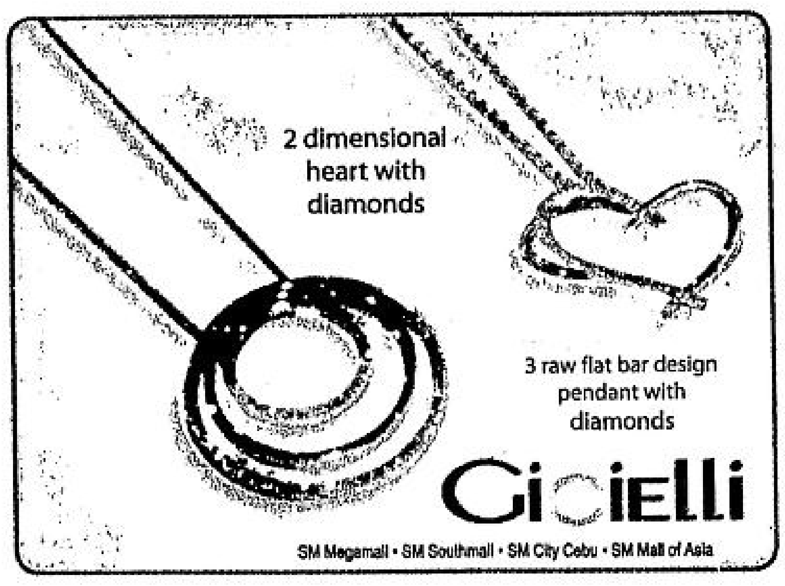
SM City Cagayan de Oro • SM City Cebu • SM City Dasmariñas
SM City Iloilo • SM City Lucena • SM Mall of Asia
SM City Pampanga • SM City Sucat


Dangling South Sea Pearl set

PINCTADA

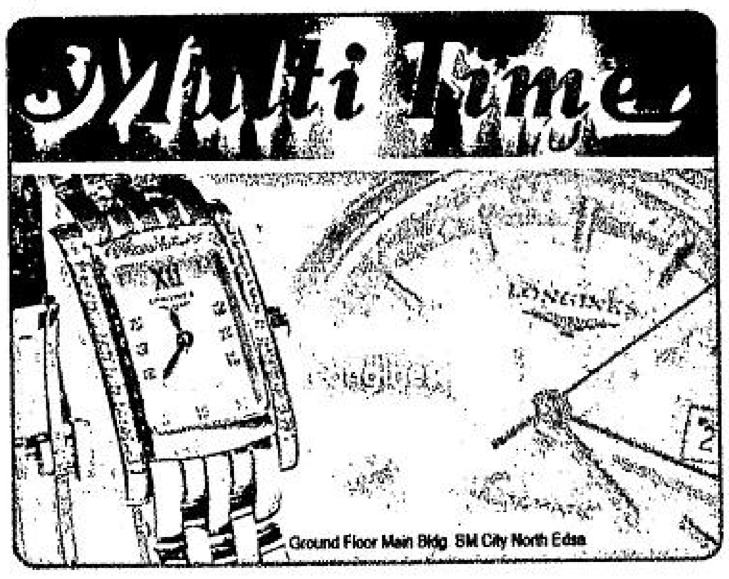
SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM Megamall • SM City Bicutan • SM City Bacoor • SM City Pampanga • SM City Batangas


2 dimensional heart with diamonds

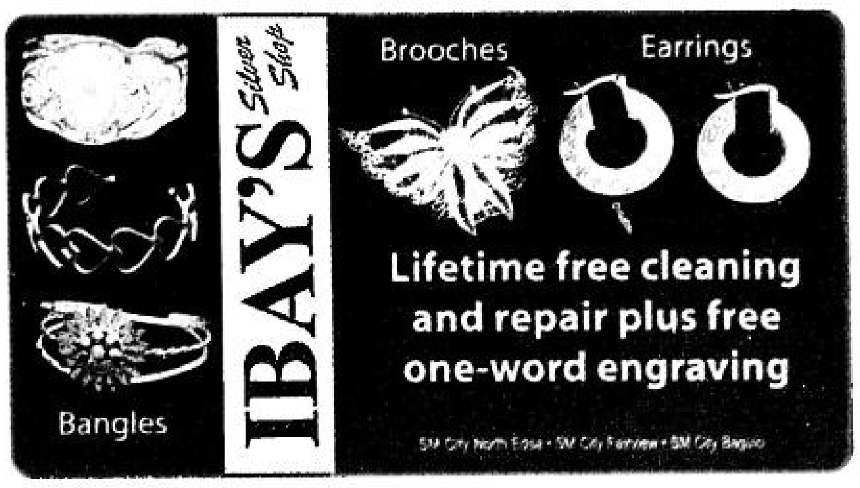
3 raw flat bar design pendant with diamonds

Gioielli

SM Megamall • SM Southmall • SM City Cebu • SM Mall of Asia


Multi Time

Ground Floor Main Bldg SM City North Edsa


IBAY'S Silver Shop

Bangles

Brooches

Earrings

Lifetime free cleaning and repair plus free one-word engraving

SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM City Baguio

time focus

SM City Fairview • SM Megamall

CITY TIME

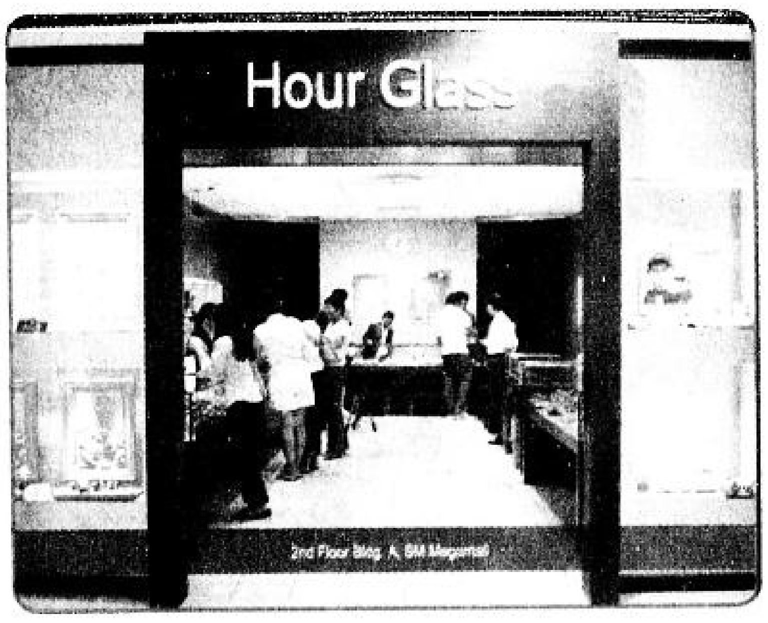
TAG HEUER

New Aqua Racer

LONGINES

Official Agent

Ground Floor SM City Fairview


Hour Glass

2nd Floor Bldg. A, SM Megamall

ces FOR grandparents

SM SUPERMALLS

Grandma's Attic

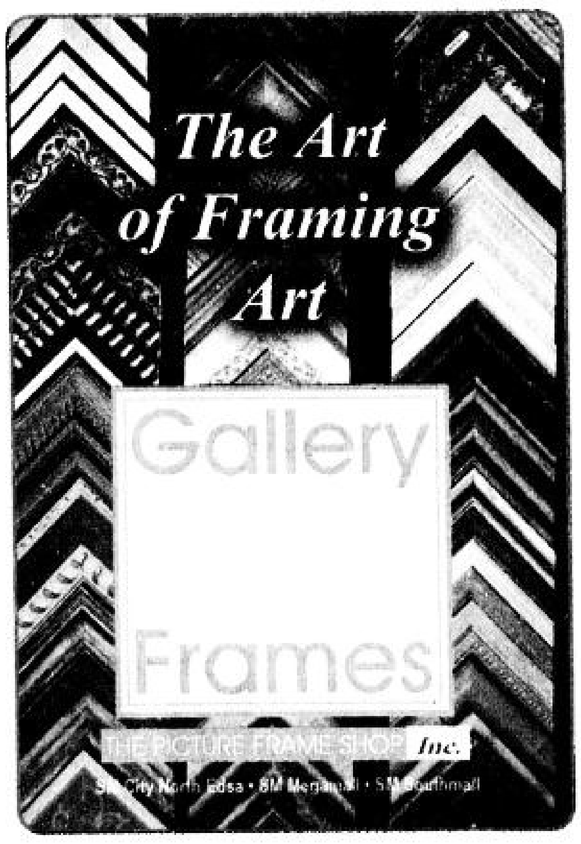
Home of antique & repro interiors

3rd Floor Main Bldg. SM City North Edsa

The big & small art co.

Art That Fits

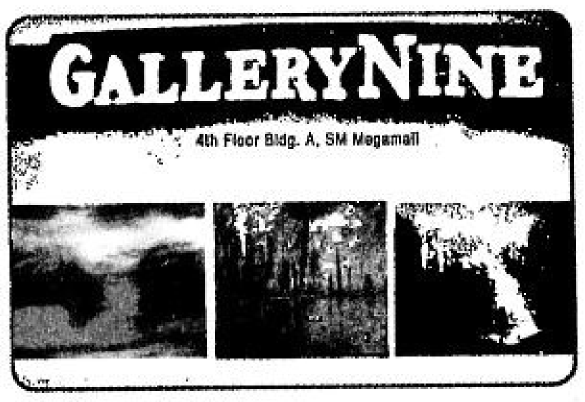
4th Floor Bldg. A, SM Megamall


The Art of Framing Art

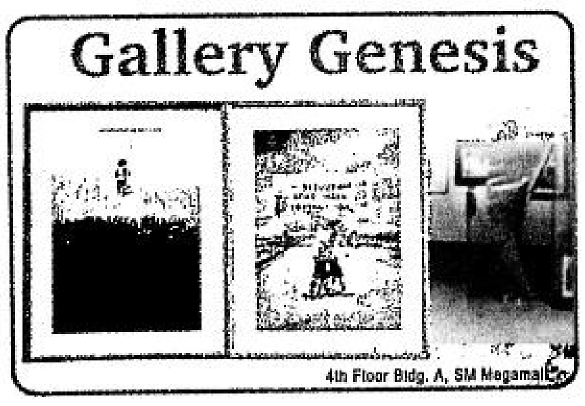
Gallery Frames

THE PICTURE FRAME SHOP Inc.

SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall • SM Southmall


GALLERYNINE

4th Floor Bldg. A, SM Megamall


Gallery Genesis

4th Floor Bldg. A, SM Megamall

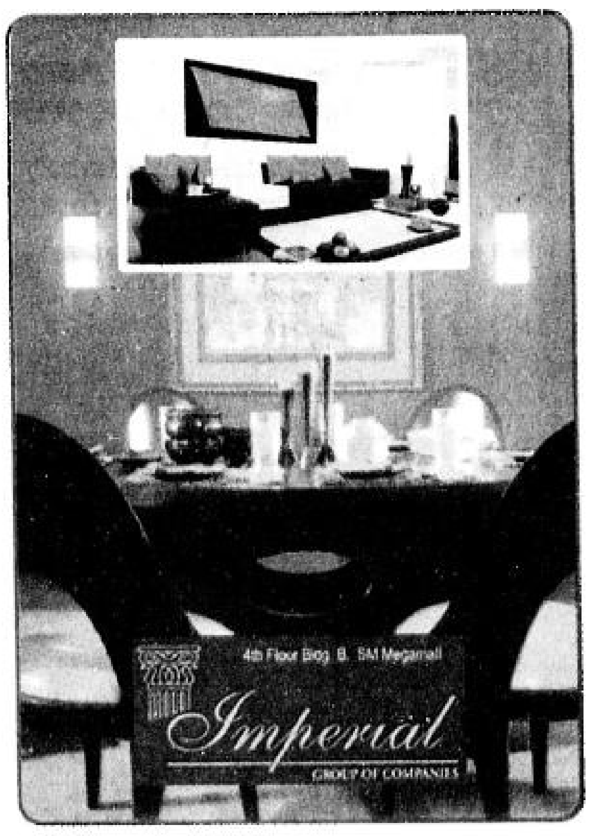
Philux Inc.

SINCE 1993

QUALITY

Solid Wood

SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall


4th Floor Bldg. B, SM Megamall

Imperial

GROUP OF COMPANIES

Collezione Europa

Interior

3rd Floor Main Bldg. SM City North Edsa

Hugo Sofa Set

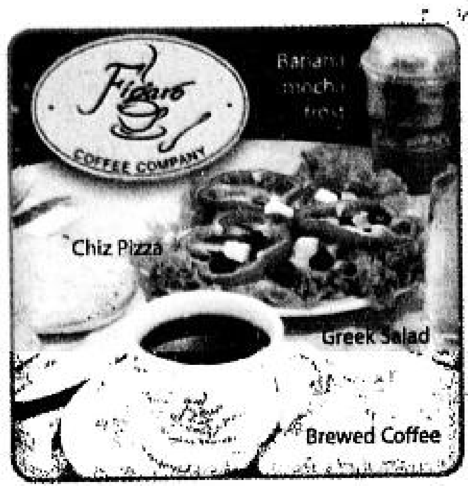
Gobain All Glass Dining

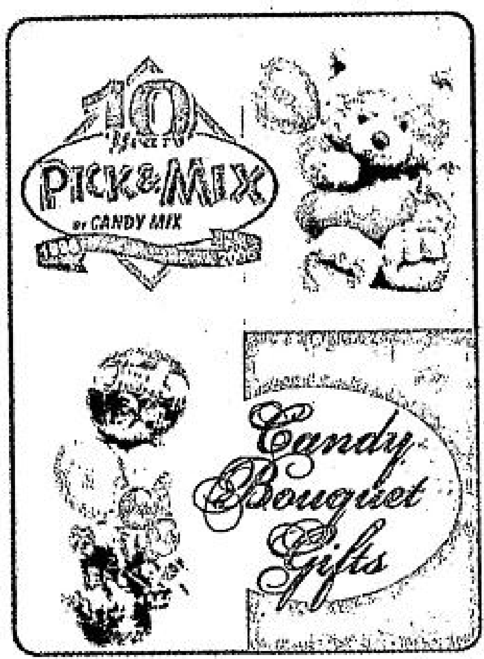
RH

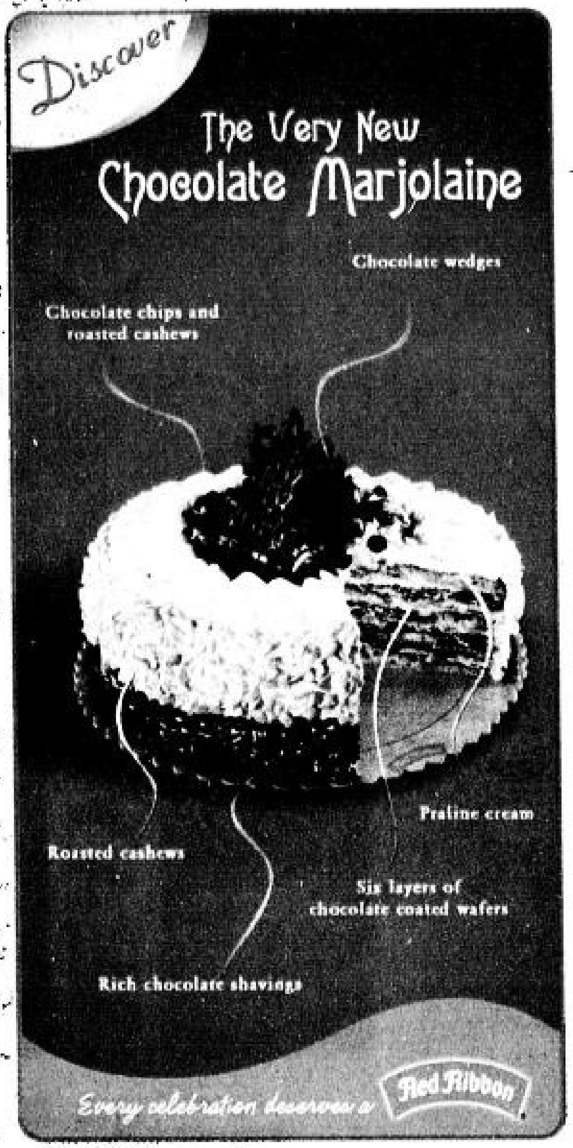
Royal House of Interior

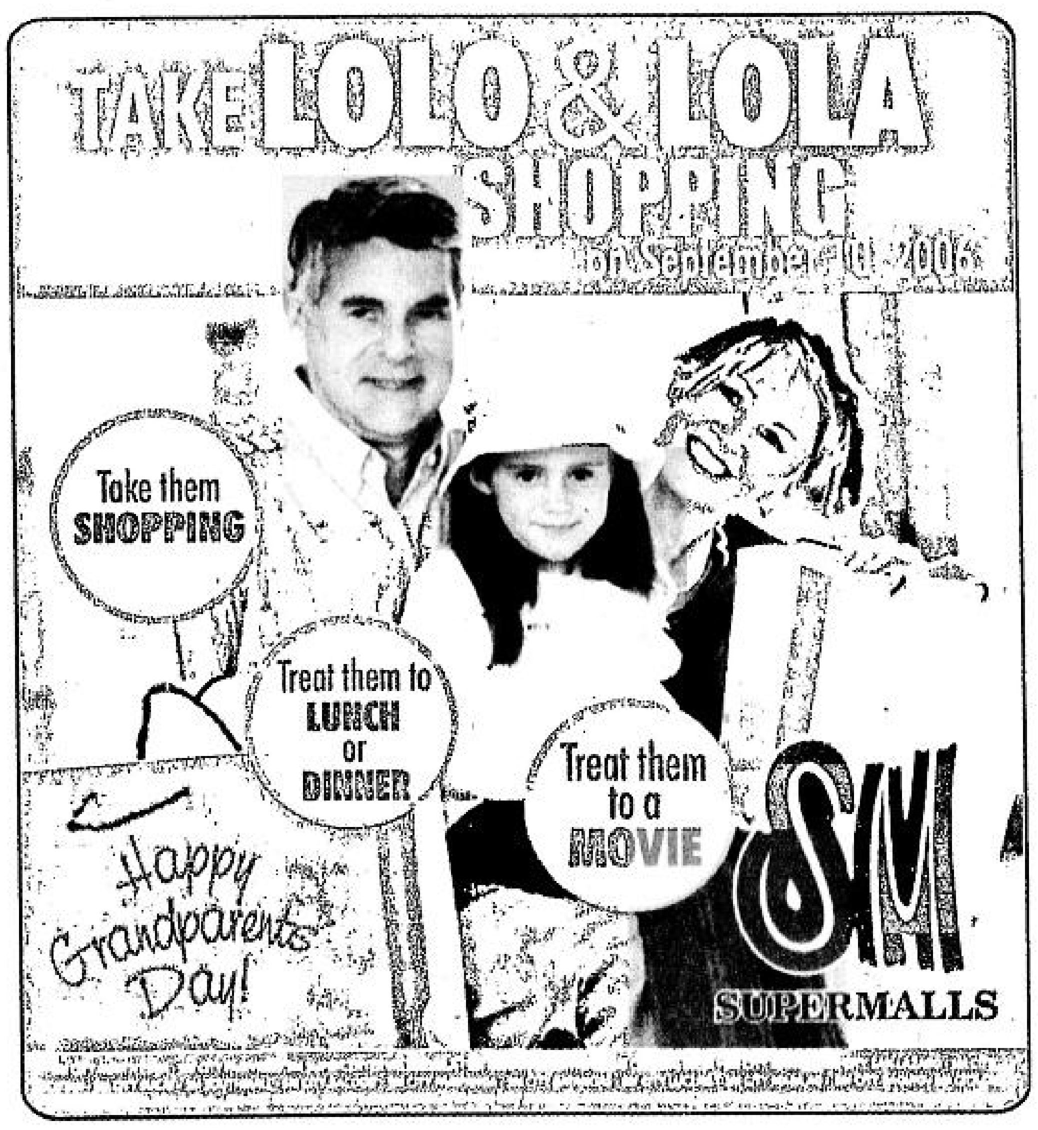
4th Floor Bldg. A, SM Megamall

SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY SAN LAZARO • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM CITY SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY BACOOR

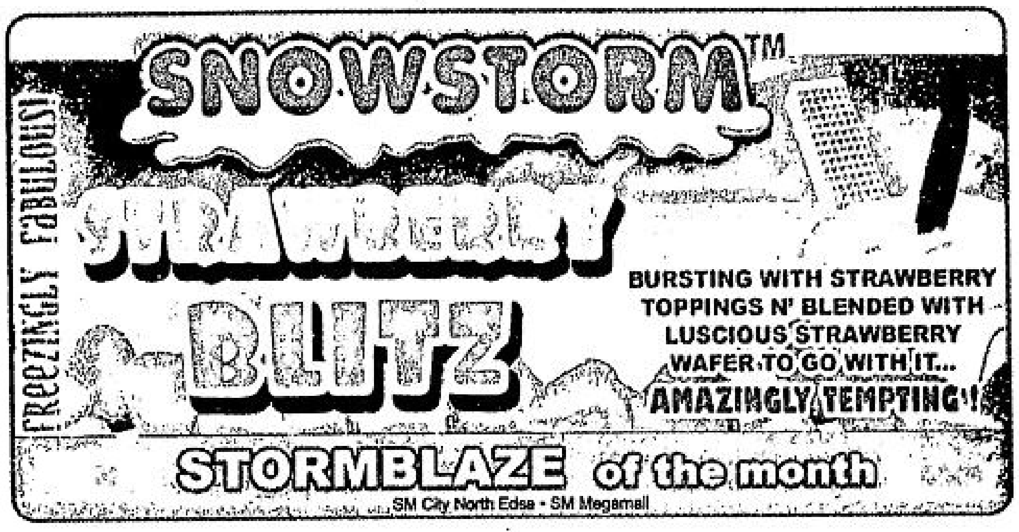

Figaro Coffee Company
Banana mocha frost
Chiz Pizza
Greek Salad
Brewed Coffee


10 years
Pick & Mix by Candy Mix
Candy Bouquet Gifts


Discover
The Very New Chocolate Marjolaine
Chocolate wedges
Chocolate chips and roasted cashews
Praline cream
Roasted cashews
Six layers of chocolate coated wafers
Rich chocolate shavings
Every celebration deserves a Red Ribbon


TAKE LOLO & LOLA SHOPPING
on September 10, 2006
Take them SHOPPING
Treat them to LUNCH or DINNER
Treat them to a MOVIE
Happy Grandparents Day!
SM SUPERMALLS

Goldilocks Bakeshop • Foodshop
GO-DELIVERY
888-1-999


SNOWSTORM™
FREEZINGLY FABULOUS!
STRAWBERRY BLITZ
BURSTING WITH STRAWBERRY TOPPINGS N' BLENDED WITH LUSCIOUS STRAWBERRY WAFER TO GO WITH IT... AMAZINGLY TEMPTING!
STORMBLAZE of the month
SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall

dine WITH Lolo & Lola

[illegible]

SM SUPERMALLS

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greenwich

CHICKEN McDo
Mapapakamay ka sa sarap!
24 hours 8 M6 C2 D3 O6

TRY IT!
Chicken Sotanghon Soup
Now with chicken meatballs
Creamy MACARONI SOUP
Add-on to any value meal
P25 each
P27 each
Bida ang sarap! Jollibee

EXTREME Hot Shots
w/ EXTREME CHILI POWD

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BBQ RIBS Cheesy Volcano
MOZZARELLA
PROVOLONE
CHEDDAR
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Call: 911-11-11
Metro Manila delivery
Pinaka pizza
Pizza Hut

NEW GREAT TASTE. GREAT VALUE.
P69 ONLY.
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WHOPPER JR.® AND LARGE COKE COMBO
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Coca-Cola

All day, All night! Great food delivered fresh, hot and fast!
Wendy's Hamburgers
DIAL 533-3333

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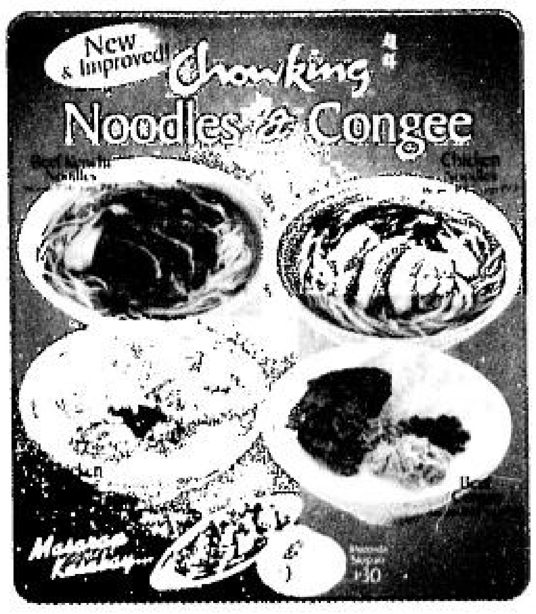
SUMO MEALS
Tokyo Tokyo


New & Improved! Chowking
Noodles & Congee

Shakey's
77777
DELIVERY HOTLINE
If it's late, it's FREE!
FOR METRO MANILA ONLY

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